

## Egypt remands suspected Israeli spies in custody

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian prosecutor on Saturday remanded two Israeli Arabs in custody for 15 days for further investigation into suspicions they were spies, security sources said. They said a state security prosecutor ordered Fares Subhi Masrati and his daughter Fayga held at a maximum-security prison in Cairo but gave no further details. Mr. Masrati's son, Majed, and Israeli businessman David Ovitz have also been arrested in the case. Security sources said Majed had tried to cross into Israel on a forged passport. Israel has urged Egypt to release the four to avoid damaging relations.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Volume 17 Number 4932

AMMAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1992, SHA'BAN 12, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams.

## Lovelorn schoolboy shoots himself on Valentine's Day

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (AP) — A teenage schoolboy shot himself on Valentine's Day because his parents forbade him to see the girl he loved, police said Saturday. Militades Schinis, 16, stole his father's shotgun and went to his school at dawn Friday. There, in the playground, he fired a single round into his chest which penetrated the heart. Schoolmates found his blood-stained body lying on the ground when they arrived for morning classes. At his home, a note he left to his parents said: "I must die because I cannot imagine myself leaving the classroom during a recess and not seeing and talking to her... I loved her in the pure sense, as I never loved anyone before." The identity on the girl was not disclosed, but his note indicated she was a schoolmate.

## OPEC agrees to cut oil output and prop up prices

GENEVA (R) — OPEC oil ministers agreed on Saturday to cut runaway oil output in a bid to shore up oil prices, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamoud Abdullah Al Rqobah said. He told reporters the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries had decided to reduce its output to 22.9 million barrels per day. The group is currently pumping around 24.4 million bpd, an amount that is weighing on prices in a market awash with crude.

## Sikh militants kill 10

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Sikh militants killed two Hindu supporters of an election candidate and wounded eight bystanders Saturday in random shooting in Punjab, police said. In another incident Saturday, a bomb blast outside a Hindu politician's home killed a guard and injured 22 supporters. News reports said at least seven other people were killed Saturday by Sikh extremists who have vowed to thwart scheduled Feb. 19 elections for the Punjab state legislature. Balloting will be held for 13 parliamentary seats.

## Iran frees Indian PoWs

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran on Saturday freed three Indians captured while fighting on the Iraqi side in the final days of the 1980-88 Gulf war, Tehran radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the Indians were handed over to the Indian ambassador in Tehran, Mohamad Hamid Asari. Other mercenaries, mainly Arabs from Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Sudan have been freed by Iran in recent months. The number of those still imprisoned is not known.

## Mother Teresa said to be 'tired'

ROME (R) — The religious order of Mother Teresa, the 81-year-old missionary nun who is recovering from heart surgery, on Saturday denied reports she had suffered another heart attack while visiting Rome. "No, no, she was a bit tired, that's all," said a spokeswoman for the missionary Sisters of Charity. "She's having a rest." No date had been fixed for her return to India, she added. It was not clear where Mother Teresa was resting and no other details were immediately available.

## Saddam tours bombed palace

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein went to see how the rebuilding of his bombed presidential palace was going on Saturday and lent workers what the Iraqi news agency described as a helping and inspiring hand. It said President Saddam visited to the palace to inspect "what the vicious aggressors destroyed of certain wings of the palace, which was the target of hostile bombing by imperialists and Zionists." The palace was hit by the U.S.-led coalition on Jan. 17, in the first wave of a 42-day bombardment of Iraq at the start of the Gulf war.

## King receives PLO team Arabs intensify coordination ahead of Washington talks

### Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received at the Royal Court a delegation representing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and exchanged with its members views about progress in the Middle East peace process as well as the coming stage of bilateral talks set for Feb. 24 in Washington.

The PLO delegation grouped Yasser Abed Rabbo, Yasser Amr, Suleiman Al Najab as well as Akram Hanich, President Yasser Arafat's advisor and Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim, Palestine ambassador to Jordan.

Chief of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh attended the meeting.

The PLO team was earlier received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Subeihat. Discussion during the meeting covered political developments related to the ongoing Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination that precedes the coming session of bilateral negotiations on Feb. 24.

The two sides also discussed the general Arab situation and means of ensuring coordination among the Arab parties taking part in the peace process with a view to reaching a unified Arab position with regard to the peace process.

On the eve of the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, the Palestinian ambassador, Mr. Abdul Rahim paid tribute to a joint statement issued after the meeting in Cairo between Egyptian and Saudi officials.

He said that the statement voiced the two countries full support for the Palestinian people's rights and total rejection of the ongoing Israeli settlement programme in the Arab lands and the drive to bring about a change in the character of the Holy City of Jerusalem.

Mr. Abdul Rahim expressed hope that the coming few days will witness an Arab meeting at the foreign ministers' level to coordinate the Arab parties' stands in the coming peace talks.

Meanwhile Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber arrived in Syria

Saturday to coordinate stands ahead of the next round of Middle East peace talks.

With his Syrian counterpart, Farouq Al Sharaa, standing next to him, Dr. Abu Jaber said: "My presence is in fact for the purpose of establishing understanding between me and my brother, Sharaa, over the forthcoming Washington talks."

The fourth round of bilateral negotiations between Israel and each of its Arab foes — Jordan, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon — is scheduled for Feb. 24 in Washington. Jordan and the Palestinians have said they would attend, but Syria and Lebanon have yet to make their stands clear.

Before leaving Amman, Dr. Abu Jaber told the Associated Press that he was seeking to "forge a united Arab position against Israel's intransigence and continuation of its settlement policy." The Arabs are demanding that Israel stop settling Jewish immigrants in occupied territories.

There have been suggestions that the Arabs might halt the peace talks unless they extract from Israel in the next round of talks a commitment to stop the settlements.

Dr. Abu Jaber met this week in Amman with the PLO delegation to coordinate stands. The PLO has been physically excluded from the Mideast peace talks, but wields strong influence on the Palestinian negotiations.

In an arrival statement, Dr. Abu Jaber said he hoped that during his visit Syria and Jordan "will reach some common factors for mapping out future strategy and planning cooperation and coordination between them."

The two countries' different approaches towards the peace process also have fuelled concern that the lack of coordination would weaken the Arab position in the talks with Israel.

Syria and Lebanon boycotted a multi-party meeting that convened in Moscow last month to promote cooperation among the Arabs, world powers and Israel on regional matters such as water, environment, disarmament and refugees.

(Continued on page 5)

## Make U.N. more democratic — Castro

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro, shrugging off criticism of Cuba's one-party communist system, said the first thing that should be made more democratic in the world was the United Nations.

"They talk so much about democracy and the first thing that should be made more democratic is the United Nations," Mr. Castro said in remarks quoted by the official communist party newspaper Granma on Saturday.

Granma said he made the remarks on Thursday during a meeting with more than 100 Brazilian intellectuals, artists and professionals on a week-long solidarity visit to Cuba.

Mr. Castro criticised the current system in the U.N. Security Council under which a single veto by one of its five permanent members — United States, Britain, France, China and Russia, holding the seat of the former Soviet Union — could block resolutions backed by a majority of countries.

Referring to Cuba's critics, the Cuban leader said: "We invite them to start by making the United Nations more democratic, especially now when the Security Council is unfortunately becoming an instrument of hegemony."

Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, Mr. Castro has frequently accused the U.N. Security Council of acting as a tame instrument of U.S. foreign policy.

The Cuban leader also dismissed international critics who urged Cuba to introduce tough

Western-style economic adjustment policies to deal with its current economic crisis.

"They talk so much about human rights and the most brutal violation of human rights is this kind of shock policy," Mr. Castro said.

He made the remarks over a week after Cuba's human rights record came under criticism in the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Mr. Castro said that because of the collapse of preferential trade ties with eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Cuba's fuel consumption had been cut to 40 per cent of former levels and exports were below half what they were.

"But see how despite these catastrophic consequences there is not a single child without a school to go to, our universities remain open, the hospitals are still working and there is not a single sick person who does not have medical help," he said.

In contrast, economic "shock policies" being applied in other countries were driving millions to hunger, Mr. Castro said, without naming any specific country.

"There are countries who have a lot of money and every so often there's a social explosion because of these shock policies," he added.

"With infinitely less resources, we are fairly distributing what we have and we are maintaining a very high level of unity and consensus in our country," Mr. Castro said.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives the PLO delegation currently visiting Amman (Petra photo)

## Algeria braces for urban warfare

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — The spectre of a prolonged urban terrorism campaign confronted the government Saturday despite temporary success in deterring street protests by Muslim fundamentalists.

In contrast to widespread clashes a week ago after Friday prayers, state-run and independent media reported no major disturbances Friday night or Saturday.

Muslim fundamentalists averted what could have been a bloody showdown with the military-installed government by cancelling a banned protest march Friday in central Algiers.

Skirmishes did occur in several other cities Friday afternoon, resulting in at least two deaths and 74 arrests, according to the state radio.

It said two demonstrators were killed and a policeman injured when Islamic Salvation Front militants tried to organise a demonstration after prayers in Al Khroub, near Constantine.

The radio said five people were wounded by bullets in Maghnia, near the Moroccan border; 44 people were arrested in the northwestern city of Mostaganem, and about 30 people were arrested in Ain Defla, west of Algiers.

Last weekend, following week-

ly prayers, at least 50 people were killed nationwide as fundamentalists vented their anger at the government. The new regime took power Jan. 11, cancelled elections that were expected to give the Salvation Front control of parliament, and launched a crackdown on the party.

In the past week, a dozen security force members have been killed in attacks blamed on so-called "Afghans" — hardline fundamentalists who receive guerrilla training in the Afghan war.

Five suspected Afghans were killed early Friday in Algiers after a shootout with security forces, the state TV and radio reported. They reportedly were cornered by security forces investigating an ambush Monday in which six policemen were killed.

Three security force members were injured in Friday's shootout, and the house where the suspects were located blew up, reportedly after being hit by rocket-grenades.

The battle occurred in the Casbah, an ancient Algiers neighbourhood where revolutionary guerrillas took refuge during the independence war against France from 1956-62.

An estimated 1,000 or more

Afghans remain at large, many of them believed to operate out of derelict houses in the Casbah.

Security forces, in a change of tactics Friday, switched from fixed positions around mosques to mobile anti-guerrilla units combing the Casbah's narrow streets and surveying the city from rooftops.

The Salvation Front initially called for the march on Friday to demand release of its jailed leaders and protest the cancellation of the second round of parliamentary elections.

The new rulers, trying to combat the rise of Muslim fundamentalism, are in the process of banning the front.

The ruling council also is struggling to convince the international community that Algeria remains worthy of foreign investment, which is considered crucial in addressing severe economic problems.

Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi was due in Saudi Arabia Saturday to start a tour of Gulf countries, apparently to seek financial support for his country.

The foreign ministry, quoted by the Algerian news agency APS, said Mr. Brahimi would examine "ways and means of strengthening ties uniting Algeria to Gulf countries."

## 3 Israeli soldiers hacked to death; Palestinians blame Israeli policy for incident

EIN IBRAHIM (Agencies) — Arab attackers armed with knives and axes killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded a fourth at an army camp near the occupied West Bank, army officials said Saturday.

The attackers were believed to be Palestinians who stabbed and hacked some of the victims as they slept at around midnight Friday (2200 GMT), the officials said.

It was the first time in the four-year Palestinian uprising that Palestinians carried out a raid on a base in Israel. It was compared to an infiltration from Lebanon by hang-glider that left six soldiers dead in 1987.

The slayings near this Israeli-Arab village could have political consequences. Army radio reported the parliament would hold a special session in the coming week to discuss the raid.

Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein said on Saturday that the attack was the outcome of repressive Israeli policy.

"The Israelis have been carrying out military campaigns in Lebanon and other territories," Mr. Hussein told reporters in Arab East Jerusalem after hearing of the attack.

"They say it does not hurt the peace process. So the other side also can do things in the same way," he said.

Asked about Israeli accusations that Palestinians applied a double standard in such incidents, Mr. Hussein, the overall head of the Palestinian team to Middle East peace talks said:

"Go back to the Israeli statements in which they say they have the right to do military operations and attacks against the Arab states who are negotiating with Israel."

Palestinian peace delegation spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said Israel's 24-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.75 million Palestinians, "produced violence and reaction to violence."

"The attack reaffirms our position for the need to work in a quick way to reach true peace," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Former cabinet minister Rebban Zeevi of the far-right Moledet Party told the radio that his past warnings of such attacks "fell on deaf ears."

The radio also quoted left-wing legislators as saying the attack was intended to put an end to U.S.-backed Mideast peace talks in Washington.

The escape of the assailants and the fact that some victims were untrained immigrants from the former Soviet Union also raised questions about preparedness at the camp, about 37 kilometres southeast of the coastal city of Haifa.

Military Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak said two of those killed were new Soviet immigrants with "just several weeks in the army" and the third was an Israeli corporal.

"It is an extremely serious incident," Gen. Barak said after arriving by helicopter. He said the Arabs "attacked a group of immigrant soldiers ... with

knives, axes and pitchforks."

The two immigrants were killed in their tents, and the attackers used a pitchfork to slay the Israeli soldier who ran to the scene.

A cot in one tent was covered with blood. Outside there was a puddle of blood.

Gen. Barak said investigators were uncertain whether the attackers were Arab citizens of Israel or Palestinians from the West Bank, about four kilometres south.

Army radio quoted residents in the nearby West Bank town of Jenin as saying a claim of responsibility was made by the "Black Panthers," a local PLO militia. But radio reports said Islamic fundamentalists were suspected.

The army's concern over the attack was apparent in that Gen. Barak appointed a major general, Nehemiah Tamari, to investigate the incident.

An Israeli soldier, who asked that his name not be used, said the new recruits seemed totally unprepared. "I saw a 30-year-old man crying. They didn't even know how to load a gun," the soldier said.

Amir Rosenthal, manager of the Gilad collective farm about five kilometres away, said the first word of the attack came when confused and bedraggled soldiers drove to the farm after they couldn't activate their radio.

Military sources said the attackers got away with four of the soldiers' guns — three American-made M-16 automatic rifles and one Galili submachine gun.

## PLO says it has evidence Libya not involved

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday that a secret investigation into the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, has revealed that Libya was not involved. Bassam Abu Sharif told the Associated Press in Nicosia a few hours after Mr. Arafat's return from Tripoli to Tunis that the Palestine Liberation Organisation was willing to cooperate with any international investigation to prove the accuracy of its information, said Mr. Abu Sharif. "The PLO has gathered very accurate and sensitive information related to the Lockerbie affair. This information points clearly to the involvement of Middle East parties, not Libya, in this crime," Mr. Abu Sharif said in a telephone interview from Tunis. He refused to name the parties allegedly involved but said the PLO has "a detailed list of the names of the people who were directly involved in plotting and executing this crime. Libya as a government and the two Libyans cited by the American and the British governments as being involved in this operation are not linked whatsoever."

## Semi-Muslim summit opens in Tehran today

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — The leaders of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey will welcome at least three ex-Soviet Muslim states into an economic club whose first summit opens in Tehran on Sunday.

The three founder-members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) hope the inclusion of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and possibly Tajikistan will inject new life into a group which has existed unobtrusively for 27 years.

President Turgut Ozal flew to Tehran on Saturday for the summit.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also arrived in Tehran Saturday to attend the summit.

ECO foreign ministers agreed in Ankara this month to admit the first three and accept Tajikistan, whose president is due to attend the Tehran summit, if it made a formal application.

"We would like ECO to gain new impetus and this summit is a chance to discuss its future," Kaya Toperi, spokesman of Turkish president, told Reuters.

Apart from taking in new members, ECO heads of state will approve a 10 per cent lowering of tariff barriers between them and discuss steps towards freer trade and movement.

The meeting will also give them an opportunity to discuss regional disputes such as the civil war in Afghanistan and the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Iran, Pakistan and Turkey all say they support U.N. peace efforts for Afghanistan, seen as another potential ECO member.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Friday he would visit Yerevan and Baku

next week in a peace mission requested by Armenia. Both sides ignored an earlier Turkish offer to mediate in the fight over the mainly Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan, which has cost more than 1,000 lives since 1988.

ECO started out as a loose economic pact between the Muslim states which had been part of the military Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) set up by the United States and Britain in the 1950s to deter the Soviet Union from expanding southwards.

Now pro-Western, secular Turkey and fundamentalist Iran are offering sharply contrasting models to the new Muslim republics — and Washington wants its Turkish ally's influence to prevail.

"Turkey is indeed a friend, a partner of the United States. And it's also a model to others — especially those newly independent republics of central Asia," U.S. President George Bush told visiting Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel this week.

The two leaders agreed to expand joint efforts to provide relief aid and longer-term technical assistance to the four prospective ECO members, as well as Kyrgyzstan and Armenia.

U.S. officials said they wanted Turkey, oriented towards free-market, democratic ideas, to outdo Iran in the competition for Muslim hearts and minds in the former Soviet republics.

Mr. Demirel, sounding a cautious note, said Turkey was not competing with anyone in central Asia and the Transcaucasus.

Turkey and Iran have maintained reasonably good ties despite underlying tensions, which include charges by Ankara, denied in Tehran, of Iranian support for Turkey's rebel Kurds.

## U.S. sells \$6 billion worth of arms to Mideast in past 9 months

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush called last May for restraint in weapons sales to the Middle East. Since then the United States has transferred about \$6 billion worth of arms to the region, according to the Arms Control Association.

Figures compiled from Pentagon, congressional and other government sources show the United States has sent \$19 billion in weapons to the Middle East in the 17 months since Iraq invaded Kuwait, the private research group said in a recent report.

Saudi Arabia got \$14.8 billion worth and Egypt \$2.17 billion worth.

Asked if the sales since May were consistent with Mr. Bush's proposal, Richard Boucher, a State Department spokesman, replied: "Any transfer that we engaged in are fully consistent with the president's initiative and the guidelines that have been agreed upon for conventional weapons transfers already by the five countries involved in the initiative."

Mr. Boucher said he could not verify the figures made public by the Arms Control Association.

The five countries that agreed to establish guidelines for arms sales to the Middle East were the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China. They are scheduled to hold talks here next Thursday, with Russia taking the Soviet place.

Mr. Bush's initiative dealt with sale of non-nuclear weapons to Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

According to the association, the weapons transfers included each of the five categories of arms identified in a 1990 agreement. The agreement was designed to reduce weapons in Europe that could be used for "launching surprise attack and for initiating large-scale offensive action."

They include main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, heavy artillery, combat aircraft and attack helicopters.

Since 1989, U.S. arms exports to developing countries have increased by 138 per cent, the report said. In 1990, increased

U.S. exports and the disintegration of the Soviet Union combined to make the United States the world's largest exporter of weapons to the developing world for the first time since 1984.

The association reported these U.S. arms transfers from August 1990 through December 1991:

Bahrain, \$37 million, including 27 main battle tanks.

Egypt, \$2.17 billion, including 46 fighter planes, 80 air-to-surface missiles and 240 antitank and antipersonnel cluster bombs.

Israel, \$467.9 million, including two Patriot batteries and 64 Patriot missiles.

Kuwait, \$350 million to improve air bases.

Morocco, \$250 million, including 20 used fighter planes.

Oman, \$150 million for 199 armoured personnel carriers.

Saudi Arabia, \$14.8 billion, including 24 fighter planes equipped with missiles, 150 main battle tanks and 12 Patriot fire units.

United Arab Emirates, \$737 million, including 20 helicopters with 620 missiles.

In a separate report, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency said military spending around the world fell by \$22.5 billion in 1989, the last year covered in its survey.

From 1985 through 1989, the U.S. agency said, the Soviet Union was the No. 1 arms supplier in the Middle East, providing roughly \$24 billion worth. The main recipients were Iraq, \$13 billion; Syria, \$6.1 billion; North Yemen, \$1.4 billion; and Jordan, \$1.2 billion.

The United States exported \$11.2 billion in arms in 1989 and was the second largest arms exporter to the Middle East in 1985-89, providing \$15.4 billion in weapons. Israel received \$6.1 billion worth; Saudi Arabia, \$5 billion, and Egypt, \$2.9 billion.

In 1989, the report said, world military expenditures rose in current dollars to slightly over \$1 trillion. The Middle East is the world's largest importer, taking \$12.1 billion in 1989, or roughly 27 per cent of the world's arms market.



## Libya says hearing to be held in Pan Am investigation

ROME (AP) — With momentum gaining for an arms and air embargo against Tripoli, Libya announced Friday that it will conduct a public court hearing for two Libyans wanted in the west for the 1988 Pan Am bombing.

The announcement by the state-controlled news agency JANA appeared to be yet another move by a worried regime to make it seem it is trying to please the West and forestall the crackdown without actually bowing to U.S. and British demands for the surrender of the pair, described in indictments as intelligence agents.

At the United Nations, a draft of the embargo resolution was expected to be circulated among the Security Council as early as Friday. Diplomats there said the measure will pass, possibly by

month's end.

But in Paris, a foreign ministry spokesman, Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, said the announcement of a new U.N. resolution extending sanctions against Libya "is premature."

Libya was dismayed last month by an unanimous Security Council vote urging Tripoli to hand over the suspects.

While Col. Moammar Qadhafi has denied that the two men worked for intelligence and has vowed that Libya will never turn over the wanted men, Libya has said a Libyan supreme court judge is conducting an investigation of the allegations that the pair helped plan and carry out the bombing of flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. The attack killed 270 people.

The investigation is itself

strange as Qadhafi has asserted on several occasions that there was no bomb — in his view, the jumbo jet crashed into a gas station, prompting its explosion.

Friday's announcement of the hearing — JANA did not say where or when it would be — came on the heels of a Qadhafi statement to French television that four Libyan officials suspected in another terrorist airplane bombing — that of a French UTA flight over Africa — were willing to go to France to face charges. The 1989 attack claimed the lives of 170 people. One of the four suspects is Qadhafi's brother-in-law, Abdallah Senoussi.

Qadhafi's opening to the French could be aimed at weakening French support for an

embargo.

Diplomats at the United Nations said Thursday that Washington, London and Paris have agreed on an embargo resolution.

The embargo reportedly would cover the sales of weapons, military hardware and airplane parts and equipment as well as ban air travel to and from the North African nation.

JANA's report, monitored in Rome, said the judge would hold "an open investigation session" with the two Libyans.

Several phone calls throughout the day Friday went unanswered at the justice ministry.

"I swear I know only what I hear from you reporters" about the hearing, said Mohammed Sarid, an official at the Information Ministry.

## Kuwait buries princess murdered by maid

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's ruling family on Saturday buries a leading princess said to have been stabbed to death by a maid in a killing sure to rekindle controversy about the role of thousands of Asian servants in the oil-rich Gulf states.

"The emiri court announces the death of Sheikhha Latifa who departed to God's mercy at the age of 45. Her body will be buried on Saturday morning," a court statement published by the official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said late on Friday.

Security sources in Egypt said Sheikhha Latifa Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah was stabbed to death on Thursday by an Iraqi maid who was refused permission to travel to the Philippines to see her children. The maid, 42, was arrested and charged with the murder.

The Cairo killing was front-page news on Saturday in many Gulf newspapers that have over the past few weeks been both debating the pros and cons of employing foreign servants.

The killing of Sheikhha Latifa, the former wife of a brother of the emir of Kuwait, follows the grisly murder in Dubai two months ago of an entire Indian family of five by a man-servant who had been with them for 12 years.

The man-servant admitted the murder after fleeing to India where the UAE authorities were seeking his extradition.

That killing prompted calls for stricter vetting of Asian servants, who mostly come from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Some are university graduates and qualified professionals such as teachers unable to find jobs at home.

Few taking part in the debate question the harsh treatment of many servants by their employers or the need for home help in a region where such a luxury is the norm for many, not only Gulf nationals but also most expatriate Westerners, Asians and Arabs.

Articles in the Arabic press spoke of too much dependence on foreign servants and the possibility of employing fewer.

## Sporadic shelling continues Somalia ceasefire agreement signed

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The interim government of Somalia and the rebel opposition on Friday signed a letter of commitment to an immediate ceasefire, a rebel spokesman said.

Osman Hassan Ali, head of the rebel delegation to U.N.-sponsored talks, said a formal ceasefire agreement was to be signed later in Mogadishu.

"We have signed a letter of commitment specifically committing us to a cessation of hostilities," he told reporters after his side signed the agreement. The government side was signing separately.

Ali said the agreement was signed with U.N. undersecretary-general James Jonah and representatives of the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

He said the agreement would be effective immediately.

"We will communicate to our office of the United Somali Congress only to fire in self-defence," said Ali, a member of the standing committee of the central committee of the USC.

His side represents the faction of Gen. Mohammad Farrah Aidid who is trying to oust the interim government of president Ali Mahdi Mohammad in a bloody clan war.

"This will be something our people have long awaited," he said, adding the details would be worked out later.

Other delegates confirmed a formal ceasefire agreement will be signed later in Mogadishu.

It was not known how the ceasefire would be monitored, but there was no immediate mention of U.N. peacekeepers.

Because of the bitterness between the two sides, two ceasefire agreements were signed separately.

Ali said he hoped a formal ceasefire agreement would be signed "by the end of the month" in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, where Gen. Aidid's forces have launched devastating attacks during the three-day U.N. talks.

## Main points of joint communique on Somalia

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Here are the main points of the agreement reached late Friday between Somalia's interim government and its archrival to halt their clan warfare and sign a formal ceasefire:

— The two Somali factions signed pledges committing themselves to an immediate cessation of hostilities and to the maintenance of a ceasefire in Mogadishu.

— The pledges were signed in the presence of representatives of the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the Organisation of African Unity and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

— A high-level delegation of representatives of the U.N. and the three regional organisations is to go to Mogadishu before the end of this month to conclude a ceasefire agreement.

— The interim government asserted that a ceasefire agreement without international monitoring and supervision will not hold.

— The representatives of the U.N. and the three regional organisations view the convening of a national reconciliation conference as the next step towards achieving a lasting peace in Somalia.

Ali said he hoped that a national reconciliation conference would follow shortly after the ceasefire agreement.

He said he hoped the ceasefire would hold, unlike others, because "this is the only ceasefire signed with the international community present."

The government side has favoured deploying U.N. peacekeepers to Somalia, but the rebel side opposes their presence.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had pushed for an immediate ceasefire that would allow relief agencies to enter the East African nation of 8.4 million people. Fighting there has caused more than 20,000 casualties and driven more than 400,000 people from their homes since mid-November.

The Security Council has imposed an arms embargo on Somalia.

On Saturday parts of Somalia's war-torn capital of Mogadishu were heavily shelled, relief workers reported.

The fighting came just hours after a ceasefire accord was struck at the United Nations to end hostilities.

A U.N. official in contact with colleagues in Mogadishu by satellite telephone said rebel forces of

Gen. Mohammad Farrah Aidid heavily shelled northern Mogadishu early Saturday.

However, the shelling subsided and by mid-morning only sporadic shelling was heard, the official said.

The northern part of Mogadishu is controlled by Aidid's archrival, President Mohammad, and has been bombarded heavily since the peace talks began last Wednesday.

Another U.N. official said 150 people were killed and up to 500 injured in three days of fighting. He said Aidid's forces also captured an airstrip about 16 kilometres from the city centre.

The official said relief agencies stopped using the airstrip to ferry supplies to the northern side of the divided city because of the fighting.

Both U.N. officials, frequent visitors to Mogadishu, spoke on condition of anonymity.

About 20,000 people, mostly women and children caught in crossfire, have been killed or wounded since the current battle began Nov. 17.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Friday the intensified fighting had forced the withdrawal of its six workers from northern Mogadishu, leaving 44 seriously wounded patients without care.

## U.S. lawyer champions jailed Saudi sheikh

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A Western human-rights campaign on behalf of a jailed Saudi sheikh heated up Friday when American Lawyer F. Lee Bailey said he was being held for political reasons and demanded to know his whereabouts.

Mr. Bailey, in an advertisement in the New York Times, accused the Saudi government of holding Sheikh Mohammad Al Fassi without charge "in inhumane conditions" since he was imprisoned in October in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

Al Fassi is related to the royal family through his sister, Princess Hind, who is married to Prince Turki, a younger brother of King Fahd and fourth in line to the throne.

Although Al Fassi has represented himself as a champion of democracy and has frequently

called for political reforms, some prominent Saudis say he has no constituency in the kingdom.

The Sheikh repeatedly embarrassed Saudi royalty while living in Florida, where he walked out on hotel bills and gave bad checks to charity. He also drew the wrath of the local humane society when he adopted, then neglected, more 100 homeless cats in Miami beach.

In California, he outraged neighbours by painting in bright colours the genitals on classical statues at his \$4.75 million Beverly Hills mansion.

Such actions deeply offended many people in this conservative, religious country. But far more serious a matter were Al Fassi's broadcasts from Baghdad during the Gulf crisis on a station used to beam anti-Saudi prop-

aganda.

Mr. Bailey said in those broadcasts in October 1990, Al Fassi "had the courage to suggest that a democracy might be a better practice in the region."

Saudi Arabia is ruled by King Fahd, an absolute monarch. He has pledged to establish a consultative assembly, although it will have little real political power.

Al Fassi's family and supporters say he was seized in Amman, the Jordanian capital, and sent back to Saudi Arabia, which had demanded his extradition. The Jordanians are believed to have handed him over to improve relations with Saudi Arabia, which cut off badly needed economic aid to Amman when Jordan remained neutral during the Gulf crisis.

Saudi officials refuse to discuss

Al Fassi's whereabouts. In Saudi Arabia, prisoners do not have to be publicly charged within a specific period or have access to a lawyer before they are charged.

In New York, the Saudi mission to the United Nations had no comment on any developments regarding Al Fassi.

King Fahd insisted in an interview with the Arabic weekly magazine Al Hawadeth that there is "not a single political prisoner" in the kingdom.

Mr. Bailey, who has been Al Fassi's attorney for 10 years, said in a telephone interview from his Florida office that he had written to King Fahd this week asking to see Al Fassi, last heard from more than a month ago.

"To my knowledge, he's been charged with nothing so far. He's just imprisoned," Mr. Bailey said.

## Amha Selassie would restore monarchy to Ethiopia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 75-year-old son of the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie plans to return home and set up a constitutional monarchy, supporters announced Friday.

A spokesman for the "emperor of Ethiopia" (in exile) acknowledged that Ethiopia's transitional government would resist the idea. But he said Ethiopians support restoration of the monarchy, which traces back to the biblical Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, to unify the impoverished and politically shattered horn of Africa country.

Confined to a wheelchair as the result of a 1972 stroke, the would-be Emperor Amha Selassie, making a rare public appearance, did

not deliver scheduled remarks or directly answer questions at a news conference.

His wife, Medferiasb work introduced as "empress in exile," spoke briefly in Amharic. "The time for us to venture to our beloved homeland is not far off," she said.

Their appearance included the playing of the Ethiopian national anthem on a portable tape recorder and a moment of silence for the late emperor and thousands of others killed during 17 years of Marxist rule which ended eight months ago with the overthrow of President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Selassie and his wife have been living in the Washington suburb

of Oakton, Va., for two years after spending 15 years of exile in London.

Selassie hopes to return to Ethiopia by July 23, his father's 100th birthday, to preside over reburial of Haile Selassie's remains, hidden in a secret burial site under Communist rule.

By coincidence, the new government in Addis Ababa on Friday ordered crews to begin digging to recover the emperor's body.

At an interview in his Washington hotel, the self-proclaimed "emperor in exile" smiled, nodded and uttered short phrases in Amharic as his longtime translator and spokesman, Dr. Mekasha Getachew, fielded

questions for him in English.

Getachew, relaying what he said the emperor had told him in earlier conversations, said the monarchy they hoped to set up would be similar to those in England and Japan rather than the absolute rule of his father.

He said 1.2 million Ethiopians had signed up in support of Mo'a Abessa, a group headed by Getachew which supports return of the monarchy to the country of 55 million people.

Selassie is offering his "person and position as a rallying point" for restoring freedom and unity to the country, said Getachew, a former Ethiopian information minister and ambassador now living in Walnut, Calif.

## Kurdish economy on brink of collapse as embargo intensifies

KOISINJAK, Iraq (AP) — Four months after Iraq imposed an embargo on its northern Kurdish region, hunger here is widespread and the fragile economy is on the verge of collapse.

Food reserves are dwindling, banks have run out of cash, hundreds of thousands of workers go unpaid and crime is on the rise. People are growing desperate.

In a snowbound mountain pass outside Koisinjak, an old Kurdish man in a tattered overcoat travelled alongside a line of stranded cars, seeking his leathery hand in each one for a donation. On Irbil streets, dirty children flock to a foreigner outside a Kebab restaurant, begging for coins or food.

The Kurdish political leadership, nearly paralysed by bickering, has called for elections Apr. 3 for a Kurdish assembly in hopes of regaining control of the chaotic region.

"It (the blockade) is affecting every aspect of life," said Masoud Barzani, a leader of the

Kurdistan Front, the coalition of eight main Kurdish parties.

"If it will continue, I feel there will be a kind of explosion,"

Kurdish leaders say the Iraqi government imposed the blockade to force the country's 3 million Kurds to accept its terms for an autonomy agreement.

That accord would have provided limited Kurdish self-government after the U.S.-led allied force left northern Iraq last year. The coalition force helped repatriate 1.5 million Kurds who had fled when Iraqi forces crushed their uprising after the Gulf war.

Kurdish leaders Barzani and Jalal Talabani are divided over whether to pursue an autonomy agreement. Mr. Talabani instead favours a united opposition with Shiites and Islamic opposition groups.

His differences with Mr. Barzani underscore the difficulty of uniting against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

When autonomy talks broke

down last fall, Iraq suddenly stopped paying an estimated 350,000 civil servants in the Kurdish region. Government supplies of subsidised food, rice, cooking oil, gasoline, and kerosene — the main heating fuel — were slashed.

Initially, Kurds made ends meet. They seized government bank deposits to pay civil servants. In addition, about 500 Turkish trucks a day crossed the border to sell food and other goods.

But the situation had deteriorated dramatically. Banks have run out of money. Truck traffic has slowed to a trickle after Jan. 24 when Turkey cracked down on the trucks' practice of returning with extra tanks filled with cheap Iraqi gasoline.

Iraqi soldiers have tightened their checks on traffic from the south.

Kurdish cities are running out of rice and flour. Prices are spiralling on the other foods still available.

Shamal Akram, a 40-year-old with two daughters and a disabled husband, accused a reporter and translator at the outdoor market in Koisinjak, a mountain town about 40 kilometres southeast of Irbil.

"Why don't you tell her a kilo of oil is about 25 dinars?" She shouted at the translator. The figure was one-fifth of her monthly salary, or about 75 dollars.

Siegfried Martech, director of the Caritas relief group's programme in northern Iraq, estimated the Kurdish area had only a two-week supply of food.

About 100 men in baggy Kurdish jump suits and checkered headscarves jostled in line on Friday, craning their necks as they waited to buy black market rice in Sulaymaniyah.

So far, starvation has been averted. International aid groups give food to more than 500,000 returned refugees. Rozh Shaways, a top official in Mr. Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party, noted Kurds were helped

through their clan structure and their custom of sharing with the needy.

The blockade comes on top of the U.N. embargo on Iraq, which has prevented Kurds from importing raw material for their factories, which include a sugar refinery in Sulaymaniyah. Most stand idle.

The kerosene shortage further disrupted daily life. Thousands of people spend 3 to 4 days a month standing in line for a meager ration. So many have switched to electric heaters that blackouts occur about every other hour in major cities.

No top of everything else, the heaviest snowfalls in 20 years are blocking delivery of food and relief supplies.

Some members of the large Kurdish guerrilla forces that backed the Kurdish parties have formed militias that rob people. The Kurdish parties have recently cracked down on crime. Several people were executed recently in the northern city of Shaulawa.

## Mann hospitalised

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Jack Mann, an elderly and frail Briton who spent 2½ years as a hostage in Lebanon, has been readmitted to hospital with serious lung and heart complications, his physician said Saturday.

Dr. Ayis Antonopoulos said Mann, 77, was hospitalised on Friday with "pulmonary infection and a congestive heart failure." He described the condition of the former Royal Air Force pilot as "serious, but not critical."

Mann's wife, Sunnie, said in a separate interview that her husband felt "very tired" before he was taken to hospital, but that he was "resting comfortably" Saturday morning.

She said they still planned attend a ceremony at the British High Commission on Monday during which her husband will receive the Commander of the Order of the British Empire, an honour bestowed upon him by Queen Elizabeth.

Dr. Antonopoulos said "there's a slight possibility" that Mann would be able to attend the function. He said he would reassess his condition Sunday night, and will take into account "the fact he is so keen on being there."

Mann returned to his home only last week after a month-long stay at an RAF hospital in southern Cyprus where he was treated for pneumonia.

The couple have lived in Nicosia since shortly after his release by his pro-Iranian captors in Lebanon on Sept. 24.

## Rushdie refuses 'to be an unperson'

LONDON (AP) — Author Salman Rushdie made a rare public appearance on Friday, the third anniversary of an Iranian death threat against him, and declared, "I refuse to be an unperson."

Rushdie's surprise visit to Stationer's Hall was greeted by tremendous applause from 300 writers and civil rights campaigners who convened a conference on freedom of speech in his honour.

His voice shaking with nervous strain, Rushdie spoke for 15 minutes of being a victim of "religious terrorism" before retreating once again into hiding.

He has been living under police protection since Feb. 14, 1989, when the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini pronounced Rushdie's novel, "The Satanic Verses," a blasphemy against Islam. Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Rushdie.

"I refuse to be an unperson," Rushdie said. "I refuse to forgo the right to publish my work. I have lost my freedom, my home, my family, my daily life and I want them back."

The 44-year-old writer also defended his book.

"The Satanic Verses" is a serious novel, a moral novel and as good a novel as I am able to write. It is not an unreadable novel. Neither is it filthy or degrading or obscene. It is not an 'evil book,' Rushdie said.

"It is a work of art," Rushdie said. "It is a work of art."

Rushdie said his future depended on the British govern-

ment, but "it remains to be seen how far will the government push."

He called on Western governments to demand that Iran lift the death threat.

"My being here does not mean that the problem is somehow over. It means that in order to draw attention to the fact that it isn't over, that the danger remains severe, risks have to be taken," Rushdie said.

He noted that a radical Iranian newspaper, Abrar, marked the anniversary of the "fatwa" with a prediction that he would be killed.

Rushdie said, "three years of such menaces is a very, very long time. It's time now to find an ending. It's time we were all able to put this behind us and get on with our lives."

Earlier, friends and supporters, including writer Fay Weldon and former Labour Party leader Michael Foot, laid flowers beneath a plaque in central London commemorating people executed for their beliefs.

The flowers, carried the message: "In tribute to those around the world who struggle courageously to exercise their right to freedom of expression and to defend the right of others in the face of crushing censorship, intolerance and public silence."

Salman Rushdie is the last hostage. He has to be released," said Weldon, whose books include "The life and loves of a she-devil."

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... La maison bleu  
17:45 ..... Cenevise  
18:10 ..... L'ecole des Fais  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Carnet de notes  
19:25 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Empty Nest  
21:10 ..... Documentary  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Law and Order

## PRAYER TIMES

05:01 ..... Fajr  
06:20 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:59 ..... Dhuhr  
17:38 ..... Maghrib  
18:38 ..... Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefeth Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Ternavante Church Tel. 623666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628343  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775281  
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751  
Assiout International Church Tel. 683326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 659322  
Church of the Nazarene tel. 675691

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will be affected by a warm air mass accompanying a depression centered to the south of Greece. Therefore, it will be relatively warm during the day and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In the evening, a cold front accompanying the depression will affect Jordan, making it cloudy and rainy, at times. In Agaba,

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Arif Al Ashhab ..... 602507  
Dr. Abdul Hedi Tayyan ..... 620115  
Dr. Joseph Imsh ..... 70560  
Dr. Mohammad Mansa ..... 741444  
Fina pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Aqsa pharmacy ..... 670555  
Najmoun pharmacy ..... 626772  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 626730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmezzia pharmacy ..... 637660

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Agaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Agaba 35 per cent.

## NIGHT DUTY

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 628800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230

## EMERGENCIES

Dr. Ayman Abul Hajja ..... (—)  
Al Shamsa pharmacy ..... 775825  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Khamsa Ja'bari ..... (—)  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

## CENTRAL AMMAN TELEPHONE

Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Radio Jordan ..... 773111  
Jordan Television ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815155  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical



## JEA elections expected to be hotly contested, officials say

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A strongly contested race is in the making for the Jordan Engineering Association (JEA) as 12 candidates are vying for the presidency in the March 6 elections.

The association elections, held every two years, is expected to be the most competitive in over a decade due to the increased political and electoral freedoms that have been introduced since parliamentary elections were held in November 1989.

But the two traditional competitors, the Green Bloc and the White Bloc, which fielded a fixed list of candidates in the elections in 1990, have been overwhelmed by a long list of candidates.

"Everyone wants to run for a seat on the association council, it's ridiculous," said an aide in the office of current association President Ismail Brewish.

The Green Bloc is the coalition for pan-Arab nationalists and leftists that has traditionally dominated the association's leadership in most of its 34 year existence.

The White or Islamic and "pro-establishment" coalition has been a consistent and well organized opposition to the Greens in the engineering association as well as in other professional association councils and bodies.

Professional associations, along with labour unions, were once the measuring stick for popular political sentiment before reforms were re-introduced after a two decade

absence of wider political freedoms in 1989.

As the formation of political parties increases and their legitimacy nears, these former political forums have turned more to technical and professional interests and away from the political arena in the last two years.

However, observers still consider them "good political indicators."

### Competition

The competitive spirit is most evident in the fielding of so called "Green" candidates for the seat of association president. In all, 9 candidates have officially announced their candidacy for the post, while only 3 candidates affiliated with the White Bloc have announced their candidacy.

In fact, the White Bloc has already announced the names of their 10 candidates, including their candidate for president — Hosni Abu Ghieda.

Two other candidates, who are officially independent, are known to have the White Bloc's backing. They are Rida Al Shboul and Abdul Fatah Tonkan.

The official Green Bloc candidate slate should be announced this week, according to Green Bloc organisers. Incumbent President Ismail Brewish is a strong favourite to head the Green list candidacy for the post of the association president. Allowed to serve two terms, Mr. Brewish played a major role in organising the engineer strike that asked government co-operation in im-

proving the lot of engineers working in the government this past January.

A government brokered agreement between Mr. Brewish and public officials in the prime minister's office ended what threatened to become a drawn out strike of the government employed engineers.

The eight other candidates for post of president are either expected to drop out, join the Green list for another post or run on an independent ticket.

Both blocs assure political coalition partners of one or more seats in the official electoral ticket, thus assuring themselves of votes from the different political groups.

### The issues

The leading election issue, as in 1990, is the problem of unemployment among engineers. There are at present, 1,000 registered unemployed Jordanian engineers in the Kingdom.

The unemployed engineers have not paid their yearly association fees of JD 30 and are thus not eligible to vote. This group, however, intends to lobby amongst the candidates for assurances of more jobs and employment-generating projects.

The welfare, income and employment of engineers in the Kingdom will be among the major issues that the candidates will have to find solutions to, said one Polish-educated unemployed engineer.

According to association officials, the number of engineers registered in the King-

dom went up from 23,000 in 1990 to 26,000 in 1992. The vast majority of these are returnees from Kuwait, association officials said.

The number of expected participants, however, is not expected to increase this year because of apathy among many disillusioned engineers in the Kingdom, officials said.

Of the 8,000 engineers who technically could vote, because they have paid their yearly association dues, only 4,000 are expected to vote in the March elections.

"A lot of those who can afford to pay their dues live and work in Saudi Arabia and some of the Gulf countries and are thus unable to vote in the elections," explained one official.

The turnout is expected to decline from 1990 levels when the required 51 per cent quorum was barely met, officials said.

Ismail Brewish won the presidency in the 1990 elections by only 12 votes over White Bloc candidate Ahmad Keilani. The election for president is thus expected to be hotly contested this year.

The JEA adopted a system of direct elections to a two year, 10 member council. The members should include one architect and one electrician, as well as a chemical, mechanical and geological engineer.

The rest of the council members will be civil engineers, while one seat is reserved for a "technical engineer," or those who have a bachelor of science in engineering.



Abdul Karim Al Kabariti

## Kabariti prepares for trip to Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, who is leaving for Cairo Monday, had a meeting Saturday with the Egyptian ambassador to discuss the programme of his visit during which discussions will cover cooperation in labour-related issues.

Mr. Kabariti is also expected to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa to discuss Jordanian-Egyptian coordination in the ongoing peace negotiations.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kabariti Saturday said that Jordanians who used to work in Kuwait should directly seek clarification for their compensations and other rights from Kuwaiti authorities. He said Jordanian and Kuwaiti lawyers can handle issues related to the expatriates' work in the emirate.

The minister was replying to a question about repeated demands by expatriates addressed to the Ministry of Labour to step in and ensure their rights. The minister said that as a year had elapsed since the termination of the expatriates' work in Kuwait, they lose their rights if they fail to submit an application to Kuwaiti government.

The minister urged the expatriates to immediately start taking action through competent lawyers to ensure their rights.

## Legal Committee to discuss ban on manufacture of liquor

AMMAN (Petra) — The question of whether to ban the manufacture of liquor in Jordan will be discussed Sunday in a meeting by the Lower House of Parliament's Legal Committee.

The committee, which will meet under its chairman, Hussein Mjallil, will also resume discussion of the Political Parties Draft Law.

The Financial Committee at the House will also have a meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Abdullah Alkhalil. The committee will discuss reports by the Audit Bureau on several ministries and departments.

Another meeting will be held Sunday by the House's Agricultural Committee. The meeting, which will be chaired by Deputy Nader Thurbairat, will discuss issues related to the conditions of farmers whose crops were damaged by the recent frost wave which hit the Jordan Valley recently as well as several issues of concern to the agricultural sector.

The House's Administrative Committee is also scheduled to meet Sunday under the chairmanship of Deputy Daoud Ounjak. The committee will discuss citizens' complaints referred to it by the House.

In another development, the Upper House of Parliament met Saturday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi and several ministers.

## Ramadan will be marked with available supply of meat, poultry, minister says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply is making arrangements to provide sufficient quantities of meat, poultry and other commodities for the Jordanian market, especially during the coming holy month of Ramadan.

The announcement was made by Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf during a meeting by the ministry's Supply Council during which he reviewed the supply situation in the Kingdom.

The coming month of Ramadan, which starts by March 6, will witness the beginning of the solution to the meat and poultry shortages in the local markets as the ministry will stock markets with huge amounts for the benefit of local consumers, the minister noted at the meeting. Mr. Saqqaf said that the country has sufficient basic supplies to last for at least four months.

The meeting discussed in detail the question of what the Ministry



Mohammad Saqqaf

of Supply called an unjustified rise in the price of fresh meat and reviewed a number of studies about the situation. A statement following the meeting said that the council has decided to offer

merchants the chance to import meat for the market to be sold at reasonable prices.

The statement also said that the council discussed a campaign to be launched in the media to orient the public on choosing commodities that can substitute for certain types of vegetables and fruits like turning to canned food or dried beans, peas, olives and others.

The council said that the country was expecting shortages in certain types of fruits and vegetables as a consequence of the floods that recently inundated the Jordan Valley region, damaging a large part of Jordan's agricultural products.

The minister appealed to all organisations and trade unions to join in a national campaign to steer members of the public towards alternative types of commodities and to try to promote production of local commodities.

## Singapore trade mission on visit seeking increased trade with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Singapore trade mission Sunday concludes a two-day visit to Jordan during which extensive talks on promoting trade and diversifying the types of goods exchanged between Jordan and Singapore were discussed.

Head of the visiting mission Adrian Chong said in a statement that the two countries have many opportunities to promote bilateral trade. The present balance of trade between the two sides is heavily in favour of Singapore, which sells Jordan a variety of products and imports only Jordanian potatoes, said Mr. Chong in a statement at a meeting with the president and the board members of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

The Singapore mission's visit is aimed at exploring areas for bolstering economic and trade ties between the two countries as well as launching joint ventures by businessmen, said Mr. Chong.

He added that his 10-member mission groups representatives of metal, wood and computer industries in Singapore who are seeking cooperation for joint ventures in the Kingdom.

Hussein Salem, Singapore's general consul in Saudi Arabia, who is accompanying the team on the visit to Jordan, also expressed hope that the talks would lead to further trade exchanges. Singapore, Mr. Salem said, is considered the gateway to southeast Asia and can spearhead all trade efforts in that direction.

Mr. Salem noted that Jordanians wishing to visit Singapore on business can get their visas from the Singapore embassy in Cairo through the Egyptian embassy in Amman.

The trade mission from Singapore was later Saturday meeting Jordanian businessmen and merchants for discussions on trade, according to Mr. Salem.

At the meeting with the federation board, President Hassan Murad voiced hope that Singapore would buy more of Jordan's national products.

Jordan and Singapore have much in common in terms of geographic and demographic considerations and the highly skilled manpower in both countries, he said.

Mr. Murad noted that the current exchange of products was below the desired level, although there were wide areas for the two countries to diversify the types of national goods exchanged. He said that joint ventures are feasible in view of the opportune investment climate in the Kingdom.

The mission was hoping to promote the sale of Singapore metal and plastics, timber doors, bunk beds, kitchen cabinets, computer forms and labels, black and green tea, and motor vehicle engine parts among other items.

## Ministry to begin courses on current affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education plans to introduce special courses to train students on conducting dialogue about current affairs and allow them the chance to express their opinions.

The announcement was made Saturday following a meeting chaired by Director of

General Education Thouqan Obaidat, who said that the programme will be gradually applied to government schools.

The Ministry of Education earlier announced that schools this year will begin the summer holiday by June 8 instead of the end of May to make up for the lost time during the snow-

storms, when schools remained closed.

The decision was taken by Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, who heard reports from directors of education in various governorates about the situation and proposals for extending the current scholastic year.

## CBJ chief leaves for Islamic bank meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in an annual meeting by the Council of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to begin in Tripoli, Libya, Monday.

Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Dr. Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, who is leading the Jordanian delegation, said that the meeting will discuss the bank's annual reports and final accounts of last year as well as the bank's programmes for the upcoming year.

The Islamic Development Bank offers long term loans to countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, of which Jordan is a member.

The Jordanian delegation will hold contacts with the bank's management and board on further cooperation between Jordan and the IDB to ensure funds continue



Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi

to finance development projects in the Kingdom, said Dr. Nabulsi in a two-departure statement. Dr. Nabulsi said that the IDB last month gave its approval to a loan to enable Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL) to purchase a multipurpose vessel of at least 16,000 tonnes capacity to operate along the company's routes.

The IDB will grant the JNSL a \$10 million loan to help finance the purchase of the vessel, the third to be acquired by the company, according to a JNSL spokesman.

Dr. Nabulsi did not discuss give details about other topics to be taken up at the council meetings concerning assistance to Jordan.

## JCO to launch goat breeding project

AMMAN (Petra) — Encouraged by its success in the sheep fattening project, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has embarked on steps for carrying out a goat-breeding project and has earmarked JD 75,000 for this purpose. The project, which will be implemented soon, aims at breeding a herd of goats with high production capacity. The JCO will keep the number of goats needed for the project and will sell the extra number of goats, which will be reproduced, to farmers to help them establish their own projects.

The project's first phase includes the purchase of 500 goats from Jordanian farmers. The organisation sent a circular to directors of cooperative departments throughout the country asking them to buy 10 improved Iraqi goats from each farmer to start the project.

The new generation of goats which will be reproduced will be sold to goat-breeders for reasonable prices, officials said. This step on the part of the JCO is aimed at creating a new and improved generation of goats, they said.

The organisation called on all goat breeders wishing to cooperate with it in the project to call at the cooperative organisation's offices in their areas for details about the project.

The JCO last year implemented a sheep fattening project in cooperation with the European Community (EC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The project covered Irbid, Mafraq, Azraq, Karak and Tafleeh. The project involved 10,000 sheep and all services needed for the project, including fodder, veterinary services and vaccines, were made available at the project site.

Prompted by the success of the pilot project, the JCO will establish two more stations for sheep fattening in Balqa and Maan governorates.

## Intifada-related press cartoon exhibition opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Saturday opened at the Royal Cultural Centre a week-long exhibition entitled "The Uprising in Cartoons" which includes a collection of cartoonists' works in the American and Canadian press in 1987 and 1988.

The exhibition, which is organised by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), displays cartoons featuring the Intifada, or the Palestinian uprising, its drive to evict the Israeli occupiers and the political implications of various factors affecting it.

The cartoons also depict the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli leadership's refusal to cooperate with the Palestinian people and their opposition to any peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The cartoons also demonstrate the link between Israel and South Africa as two racial regimes which depend on repressive measures and human rights abuses.



Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif Saturday reviews an exhibit of American and

Canadian political cartoons which went on display at the Royal Cultural Centre (Petra photo)

A statement issued previously by the ADC said that the Palestinian uprising has succeeded in attracting cartoonists in North America and in reflecting a positive image of the Palestinian cause.

The statement said that the deep and important views about the Palestinian personality and the just rights of the Palestinian people is of paramount importance since such positive transformation in people's thinking could usher in a shift towards a

better understanding of the reality and the facts of the Middle East conflict.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by Palestinian ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim and a number of invited guests.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### PSD: bridges still closed

AMMAN (Petra) — Travellers from and to the occupied territories are still barred from doing so because of the high level of water in the River Jordan. The Public Security Department (PSD) said that it will notify the public when it is safe to travel and for the bridges to open.

### Economic committee meeting postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Tunisian Joint Economic Committee has put off its meeting scheduled for today until further notice. A committee spokesman said that the delay was due to the fact that the head of the Tunisian team, Sadeq Rabe, was indisposed. The meeting was due to have been held in Amman.

### 7 die in road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of seven persons died and 138 others were injured as a result of 324 road accidents during the first week of February, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Saturday. The announcement said that the number of accidents exceeded by 71 the number of those occurring in the previous week.

### Damage assessment process begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has started the process of assessing damages to the infrastructure resulting from the recent snowstorms in Jordan.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Exhibition of drawings by the French school's kindergarten children at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil and water colour paintings by Tete Wegefius, Lucy Marto, Huda Bitar and Jennifer Bowker at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Spanish artist Saad Esheiri at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Shekir Hassan Al Said at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of photographs on Goethe-Forest, between Tafleeh and Shobak, at the Jordan University for Women.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Uprising in Cartoons" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILM

- ★ Italian Film Week "L'avventura" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:30 p.m.

فندق فيلادلفيا  
The Philadelphia  
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANAGEMENT GROUP

**SILK CUT THEATRE**  
Presents  
Peter Shaffer's award winning  
West End Comedy

*Lettice & Lovage*  
Starring  
**Lynda Baron**  
(from Open all Hours)  
and  
**Yvonne D'Alpra**

Directed by Michael Rolfe  
Produced by Performance  
International Associates  
(Overseas Ltd)

"Original and hilarious  
... uproarious farce..." THE TIMES  
Magnificently over the top!"  
EVENING TELEGRAPH

At the Philadelphia Ballroom on February, 18th, 19th & 20th, 1992  
Dinner at 8:00 p.m. Performance at 9:00 p.m.  
For Reservation Please Call Tel. 663100 Ext. 113



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1978  
Jordan Times مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Recourse to U.N. when need arises

SYRIAN FOREIGN Minister Farouq Al Sharaa was right to declare, on the occasion of the visit of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to Damascus, over the weekend, that the Arabs reserve the right to refer the entire Arab-Israeli conflict to the U.N. Security Council should the ongoing peace process get bogged down. His argument should in fact be all the more credible if that option was indeed part and parcel of the Arab agreement to join the bilateral and multilateral peace talks between Israel and the Arab parties. What this old-new position means is that the Arabs should need to internationalise the peace negotiations by inviting the big five permanent members of the council to shoulder their responsibility in an effective and serious way towards solving the Palestinian problem.

A few days ago, U.S. Vice President Quayle expressed his government's annoyance over Libya's frustration of the U.N. Security Council resolution calling on Tripoli to surrender the two Libyans allegedly involved in the blowing up of American and French airliners in 1988 and 1989 respectively. Mr. Quayle was quoted as saying that the patience of his country was "wearing thin" over the Libyan disobedience of the relevant U.N. resolution. There is indeed nothing wrong in experiencing impatience and annoyance with any country's rejection of a decision adopted by the U.N. organ seized with issues affecting international peace and security. After all, it is a well-known principle that resolutions of the council are binding and enforceable. So the problem does not lie there. The crux of the Arab grievance stems rather, as it has always done, from the fact that the major members of the U.N. council always feel exacerbated when an Arab country ignores the council's verdicts but feel different when Israel ignores the same U.N. decisions year in and year out. That is why there is every reason for the Arab side to entertain seriously the idea of referring the entire Middle East problem to the Security Council first for accounting and secondly for answering the chronic Arab concern about international double standards. It is high time that this bias and un-evenhandedness ended in order to lend more credence to the much acclaimed international order.

Taking the Middle East issues back to where they belong in the likely event that the current efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian case, face deadlock is something that the concerned Arab parties should en masse do. In which case the U.N. Security Council would be asked to conduct a thorough debate on the situation in the area and adopt effective measures with a view to settling the entire matter once and for all.

The council had already sent the wrong signal when during its summit meeting at the end of January it only expressed the "hope" that the peace negotiations on the Middle East would succeed. Now it is called upon to express another sentiment and position — something much louder and clearer for all concerned, but especially Israel, to hear and see.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented Saturday on the first anniversary of the raid on Al Amerieh shelter which was bombed by the allied forces during the Gulf war. The raid on the shelter, which resulted in the death of hundreds of innocent women and children, was no less criminal than the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan during World War II, said the daily. The paper said that the U.S. and the allied forces sent Valentine cards to their loved ones back at home before embarking on their deadly mission of hitting Al Amerieh shelter on Valentine Day, killing the Iraqi women and children in an unprecedented brutal manner. A year has passed since the catastrophe, and the American and allied forces maintain their sanctions on Iraq with the purpose of causing the death of more people in the ugliest manifestation of racism and hatred ever known to man, the paper continued. It said that the airmen who raided the shelter committed a crime perpetrated by their leaders, but they are equally responsible for the consequences. As the Western countries celebrate Valentine Day, the people of Iraq remember the dastard crime and the loss of their beloved ones and millions of Arabs remember the criminal act which continues under the form of an embargo imposed on the innocent population of Iraq, the paper added. It said that for the Iraqis, Valentine corresponds to Al Amerieh day and for the Arab masses, the anniversary reminds them of the atrocities of the Western alliance.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the Arab-Israeli talks to be held in Washington on Feb. 24 will be the last in the American capital simply because Israel does not want negotiations to continue there. Of course, the Americans will continue to be concerned with the sponsorship of the negotiations, but will do that by remote control and by gradually allowing the concerned parties to talk directly to one another, with little interference on Washington's part, said Mahmood Al Rimawi. This development, of course, is beneficial to Israel which refuses any American interference; it is also very convenient to the United States in view of the fact that 1992 is an election year and it is important for the American president to win the Jewish sympathisers' public support, said the writer. He said that the Americans will, of course, keep control over the negotiations as they do not wish to see other nations dominating the peace process, but without any direct influence on the parties, in a manner that would please the Israelis and the Jewish lobby in America. The writer pointed out that the Israelis are seeking U.S. guarantees for loans to be used to finance settlements and they want to keep this question separate from the peace process. It is regrettable, said the writer, to see such developments taking place at a time when no meaningful progress towards peace had been achieved.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Government to speed up decision-making

The new government of Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker is still in its third month in office. It seems too early to judge its behaviour and style of action (or inaction). Some analysts, however, believe that new governments in general show their best in their first one hundred days because a new government would come to the scene with ideas and plans already in mind for immediate implementation and because this is a honeymoon period during which the new officials will not be subjected to strong criticism on the understanding that the new team should be given ample time to study and evaluate before making major decisions.

The first three months were actually used to think and evaluate. It is high time to start taking action. If we wait too long, the Jordanian economy may stagnate, and the state of uncertainty and lack of purpose and direction may prevail again.

In this respect we have to mention with appreciation what the outgoing government of Mr. Taher Masri did when it relieved the incoming government from taking the pains of making the difficult decisions. In its last days, while the prime minister designate was taking his time in political consultations for the formation of a new cabinet, it approved the budget for 1992 and referred it to the Parliament. It also approved the economic adjustment programme agreed upon with the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) and authorised both the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank to issue the crucial letter of intent to the IMF. Without these last minute decisions to resolve controversial issues, we might have still been without a programme.

The government of Mr. Masri passed the economic adjustment programme and the related letter of intent, including the reform of consumption tax and customs duty and raising the prices of fuel and energy, to reflect the actual economic cost as of the beginning of 1992. However, it did not actually raise the prices of petroleum products and electricity although it carried out the tax reform, and imposed consumption tax on domestic production, taking in the process the heat, and absorbing the outcry of the industrialists who were taken by surprise.

In other words, the outgoing government took the responsibility of most of the difficult decisions. Unfortunately, it left the prices of fuel and electricity to the new government. This unavoidable decision is still pending, a delay which threatens to blow up the whole adjustment programme along with the best interest of the Jordanian economy. Paris Club was supposed to meet this February to reschedule the instalments which fell due in 1991 but were not paid and those which will fall due in 1992. The

meeting of Paris Club will of course be called off in a matter of days if the government fails to fulfill its commitment at the outset. Perhaps the government has reasons to put off the decision concerning fuel.

Fuel subsidies persisted from 1974 to 1985, burning in the process around JD 350 million, equivalent to \$1 billion at the then prevailing exchange rate. Again a treasury loss of JD 4 million reappeared in 1990 and jumped to JD 20 million in 1991, if the Iraqi crude were to be accounted for at the international prices.

The budget for 1992 did not allow any amount for fuel subsidies simply because the government was committed to adjust prices up as of January. The unusual snowstorms caused the government to hesitate. The loss in January was estimated at JD 2 million.

Fuel prices in Jordan were adjusted upwards at least six times over 18 years. Each time there was an uproar followed after a while by the acknowledgement that the adjustment was right and somewhat late. A similar noise will be heard this time, but people will understand that public funds should be put into a better use than encouraging waste.

The question is when (and if) the government will finally face the reality, discharge its responsibility, and do what it ought to do without further delay.

# TV film describes 'secret' U.S. Mideast commitments

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — A documentary film to be aired soon on American public television looks into secret understandings that influenced U.S. relations with Middle Eastern countries for more than 40 years.

The programme states that a "covenant" in existence since 1948 committed the United States — even while providing aid to Israel — to defend Saudi Arabia.

"The Secret Files: Washington Israel and the Gulf," which will be aired February 17, looks at confidential files and the actions taken by four U.S. presidents between 1945 and 1967 "without public knowledge or congressional consent."

Their actions, according to the film's narrator, "continue ... to set the pattern of U.S. policy in the Middle East — of maintaining close ties to the oil supplying country of Saudi Arabia while remaining allied with the Arab's sworn enemy, Israel." The narrator is Ben Bradlee, former editor of the Washington Post, whose parent company produced the film.

Through "confidential" files found in national archives and the presidential libraries of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, Mr. Bradlee examines the impact of "secret" actions and commitments upon U.S. policy and the history of the Middle East.

After a preview of "Secret Files" February 11 at the Brookings Institution, its co-executive producer Walter Pincus discussed the film and the history of U.S. relationships in the region with Middle East experts.

As explained by the narrator, Bradlee, the confidential documents show that Desert Storm was not the first time U.S. troops had been sent to defend Saudi Arabia in keeping with U.S. commitments since 1947 to defend Saudi Arabia against external aggression.

When President Bush spoke of defending "old friends" in the Gulf war, says Mr. Bradlee in introducing "Secret Files," the president was actually fulfilling 45 years of "presidential commitments to both the Saudis and the Israelis — never approved by Congress, never explained at the time to the public."

"In 1943 a plan put forth by

some Zionist leaders involved the Arabs giving up Palestine for the Jews in exchange for a \$50-million-dollar payment," the documentary states. In February 1945, on route from the Yalta conference, President Roosevelt met secretly with Saudi Arabia's King Ibn Saud aboard a U.S. cruiser in the Suez Canal to discuss the proposal.

According to secret files from the meeting, the narration says, the Saudi King's response — that "Arabs would choose to die rather than yield their land" — resulted in a private pledge by Roosevelt that he "would do nothing to assist the Jews against the Arabs, and would make no move hostile to the Arab people."

"Without a formal treaty, without public discussion or approval, the U.S. committed itself to the defense of the Saudi kingdom," Mr. Bradlee states. That promise has been the basis of U.S. policy towards Saudi Arabia ever since. Although the pledge shocked his aides, says Mr. Bradlee, Roosevelt repeated the pledge to the Saudi king a week before his death.

Nevertheless, in December 1947, the United States joined in support of the United Nations vote to partition Palestine, despite earlier U.S. intelligence warnings that a Jewish state in Palestine "could be established and maintained only by force."

In 1948, Roosevelt's successor Harry Truman recognised the new state of Israel in spite of reminders from Ibn Saud of Roosevelt's promise. Truman, however, also renewed the U.S. security guarantee to Saudi Arabia, according to the documentary. In a cable to Riyadh, the State Department promised that if Saudi Arabia was "under threat of attack" the United States, through the United Nations, would "take energetic measures to ward off such aggression."

The first concrete steps to back up Truman's security guarantee came in April 1950, when Truman's assistant secretary of state, George McGhee, met with Ibn Saud to discuss the defense of Saudi Arabia, including the Dhahran airfield, then under a short-term U.S. lease. According to secret memos, Bradlee says, the king pressed unsuccessfully for a formal treaty, but the resulting long-term agreement "would

include or follow a programme of military aid and a military mission to train Saudi soldiers."

Thus the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1951 began operating in Saudi Arabia, eventually designing seven major military centres, including a military city large enough to accommodate 50,000 troops, to counter possible attacks by Israel or Arab neighbours. That city, Dhahran, be-

came the base of allied troop operations during Desert Storm. Truman's successors continued to honor the commitment, according to the film — Eisenhower with arms, and Kennedy with military force.

When revolution broke out in Yemen in 1962, Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser gave military backing to the rebels and seemed to be inciting rebellion in neighbouring Saudi Arabia as well as airdropping bundles of mortars, machine guns and other weapons to local insurgents. Thus, in accord with long-standing U.S. secret policy, Mr. Bradlee states, Kennedy sent a squadron of F-100 fighter bombers on "defensive manoeuvres

not high."

"We cannot want peace more than ... the parties most directly affected by the absence of peace," Secretary of State James Baker says in a film clip. Viewers are also left to ponder words of Defence Secretary Richard Cheney: "I'm never sure that all of the parties out there want a settlement ... The test ... turns very much on the question of whether the major players actually want to resolve the issues."

In the panel discussion following the screening of the film, Mr. Pincus, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, and former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia James Akins, assessed the "secret

diplomacy" focus of the film. Mr. Akins said the film was "excellent," but pointed to an "important omission" in its focus, the fact that during the 47 years, the United States had a third important ally in the region — Iran.

He pointed out that "commitments made by presidents in private" do not have the binding authority of a treaty between

the region in the past decade, added: "The question is where we go from here? ... This is a region that has never known peace."

Mr. Lewis said the film dramatizes why the United States has been involved in the Middle East for four decades: "We have historic commitments to both sides, we want to keep those commitments to both sides, and we have a hell of a time honoring them so long as friends on both sides are at war."

He said the film is "an extraordinary piece of documentary journalism," but noted that "a rather key point ... not stated correctly, is the issue of ... when the U.S. became the major military supplier to Israel."

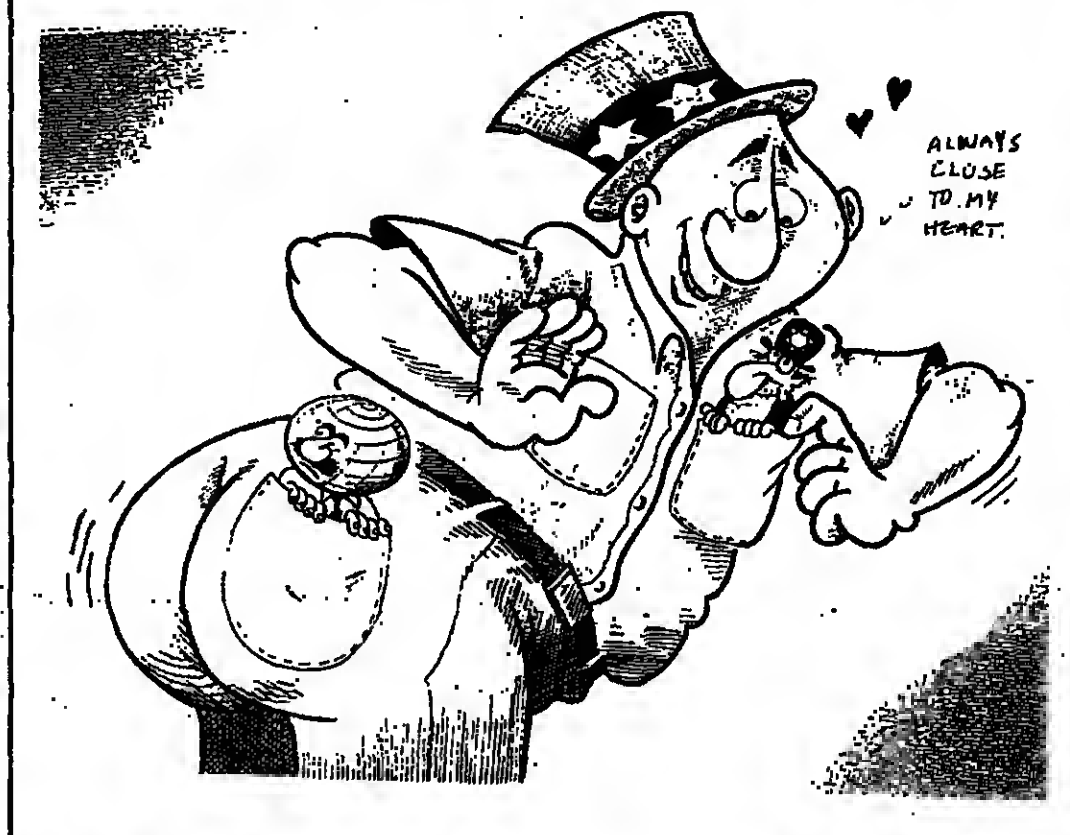
Mr. Lewis said the film gives the impression, "without ever quite saying so," that the U.S. gave assurances and military support to Israel in its early days, "when, in fact, it was Israel's ability to defend itself against invaders in 1948 that established its independence." And the weapons Israel used in the 1967 war, he added, "were not U.S. weapons ... but basically French-supplied weapons."

Noting "the contrast between these two quasi-alliances," Mr. Lewis said that the film's statement that "the secret commitments to both Israel and Saudi Arabia 'were never revealed to the public' — is just not true."

He suggested that the secret agreements are not comparable because "the public and the Congress have been remarkably aware of the degree of administration commitments to Israel; the secrecy was all about Saudi Arabia."

"I certainly agree with James Baker's remarks that the U.S. cannot want peace more than the parties do," Mr. Lewis said, "but ... the issue isn't whether people want peace but what you are prepared to risk, or pay for peace."

Robert Oakley, the former U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, said there is a need to clarify "the clear implication in the picture that out of the Gulf war came certain U.S. commitments — a large amount of oil for arms for Saudi Arabia, a smaller amount of arms for Egypt, and \$10,000 million in loan guarantees for Israel. That's a factual mistake that's fairly important to correct" USIA.



# Democrats' high hopes sinking as leadoff primary nears

By David Espo

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In their dreams, Democrats saw themselves emerging from New Hampshire with a front-runner who would swiftly unify the party and mount a strong, 50-state challenge to a republican president weakened by recession.

But with five days to go to the leadoff primary, the dream has turned to dilemma. Bill Clinton is struggling to regain his political footing and neither Bob Kerrey, Tom Harkin nor Jerry Brown is generating much voter enthusiasm. Former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas is positioned to win the first balloting of the year — and the enormous momentum it will bestow.

Not even Ronald Brown, the chairman of the Democratic Party, rules out a late entry into the presidential race.

"I would expect, at least at this time, for the Democratic nominee to come from the present field of candidates," he said recently. "I think it's unlikely... that others will get into the race."

Unlikely, but not impossible. In Mr. Brown's words, the rules and technicalities that

would make it difficult for a late entrant to succeed could be "amended or changed."

Then there are the 771 delegate slots allocated to members of Congress and party officials — a third of the total needed for nomination.

The roster of Democrats who once looked into the 1992 race and then looked away when President Bush was riding high includes: New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, whose supporters in New Hampshire are pushing him as a write-in option Rep. Richard Gephardt Sen. Al Gore of Tennessee. Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey and Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas.

To hear their handlers say it, their phones are ringing constantly with supporters and party leaders urging them to consider a late entry.

It's an impressive list — more impressive on paper than the current crop of candidates. But there are problems, as well.

A late race carries huge risks, especially for a candidate young enough to run in 1996. Non-candidates often seem larger than life, at least until they decide to

enter the race, as Sen. Edward M. Kennedy discovered when he ran and lost in 1980.

The front-runner who wins New Hampshire isn't going to welcome a party-anointed latecomer.

Even so, for many Democrats, the ones in the race seem small the ones out of it larger.

And the one who started smallest of all — Mr. Tsongas — suddenly looms as the hottest politician in America.

Ron Brown offered his less-than-definitive view before Arkansas Gov. Clinton released the 1969 letter in which he thanked a military official for "saving me from the draft." Mr. Clinton mused in anguished terms about trying to balance his opposition to the Vietnam draft against his need to "maintain my political viability within the system."

For Mr. Clinton, who had converted his claim of "electability" into front-runnerdom, the draft issue came on top of controversy over his personal life. He said on the television programme "nightline" that it was no wonder he was slipping in the polls, considering that "all that I've been asked about by the press is a woman I didn't sleep with and a

draft I didn't dodge."

Nebraska Sen. Kerrey, wounded in Vietnam, a midwesterner, a self-styled leader of a new generation, has been unable thus far to generate much support in New Hampshire. Mr. Kerrey's "no regional candidate," says a new television ad that targets Mr. Tsongas.

Iowa Sen. Harkin runs as the most liberal Democrat, but in a primary that has rejected the most liberal candidate in each of the last four elections.

Mr. Brown seems irrelevant. A Cuomo write-in is a genuine wild card.

That leaves Mr. Tsongas, up from nowhere in the polls with his stern message that Americans need to rejuvenate their economy by pouring money into programs that will create jobs. He holds traditional liberal views on abortion, gay rights and civil rights, to go with his morthodox economic policy.

The thought of another Greek democrat from Massachusetts — following Michael Dukakis in 1988 — at the top of the ticket makes many democrats nervous. But he starts off as a regional candidate with the good luck to see his region vote first.

## LETTERS

### Rid us of them, please!

To the Editor:

I have always prided myself with Amman being a beautiful city, but recently we have been loaded with billboards advertising anything from pesticides to contact lenses.

The municipality takes pains in planting trees on roadsides and then defeats its purpose by hiding them with those billboards. I certainly do not like to look out of my window and "feast" my eyes on an advertisement for pesticides and I am sure others feel the same way. It is not only an eyesore, but also a distraction for motorists in a city where the number of car accidents is high already. Recently those billboards have been erected on electricity-poles, between two carriage ways, which is even more hazardous.

In a civilised city — and we consider Amman as one — billboards are out of city bounds — if ever permitted. Even if they are allowed, as in the U.S., the 1965 (mind you as early as 1965!) Highway Beautification Act banned them within 300 metres of interstate highways.

Lately the Ministry of Tourism is trying its best to lure tourists to this country; but before doing so, let us beautify our city by removing those eyesores.

Najwa Anabtawi,  
P.O. Box 6904,  
Amman, Jordan

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## From Yemen to downtown, the Friends are there

By Pamela Dougherty

WHETHER it is in distant Yemen or in downtown Amman, the Friends of Archaeology leave no stone unturned. The society of archaeology lovers, both Jordanian and foreign, was established in 1960 and since then has visited every corner of Jordan and a great deal of Syria, Sinai and Yemen.

Their aim has been both to see as many of Jordan's archaeological sites as possible and to encourage a wider knowledge of and support for the preservation of the archaeological riches of Jordan and the region. In the past year the Friends have offered both financial and "hands-on" support to a project to produce Arabic and English language introductory panels for exhibits at the Citadel Museum.

On Monday 17 February the Friends will be holding their annual general meeting. Elections for the FOA committee will be one of the main activities of the meeting but it will also be a chance to assess 1991 activities and to look forward to 1992 plans which already include trips to Sinai and to Oman.

The highlight of 1991 was the Friends' trip to Yemen. In eight busy days the group managed to cover the major sites and sights of the country and a great many of its quieter byways.

From the first day, when they plunged into the narrow streets of old Sana' the trip was a revelation for all members of the group. Sana' is one of the oldest cities of the Arabian peninsula and is known to date to at least the second century B.C. when it was the Sabeen kingdom's main garrison town in the highlands.

Like all cities today it is growing rapidly but, luckily for the visitor, modern Sana' is developing away from the old city leaving the latter intact. And it is everything the visitor expects, with its beautifully decorated multi-storey stone and baked brick houses and mosques and a traditional market. Still divided into 40 different crafts and trades, with each area supervised by its own elected sheikh.

Beyond Sana', Yemen offered an exhausting array of places to visit and the Friends made a valiant effort to all of them.

For an archaeological group the trip to Ma'rib and Barakish was a high priority. Ma'rib was the capital of the Sabeen, the most powerful kingdom of Arabia Felix — the name given to ancient Yemen — in the first millennium B.C. Its fame stems not only from its dominant position on the east coast of the Red Sea, but also from the great Ma'rib dam, traces of which are still standing today, which provided water for a huge irrigation system during Sabeen times. It takes imagination to picture the dry, brown landscape of today as it was when the dam made possible extensive gardens producing vegetables, corn and grapes. But a new Ma'rib dam,

opened in 1986 gives the Yemenis hope of a revival of activity in an area which once supported as many as 50,000 people.

And beyond Sana' and Ma'rib there were the famous twin towns of Shibam and Kawkabao, 30 kilometres north west of Sana'. Shibam, at the foot of the mountain, was built shortly after the Sabeen era and the inscriptions on the marble pillars of its 1000 year old Grand Mosque tell the history of the town. Kawkabao at the top of the mountain has long been a place of refuge for the people of Shibam in times of trouble.

Even now the people of Shibam pay an annual ritual visit to renew their relationship with the people of Kawkabao to ensure that their refuge remains although the main threat of invasion today is from foreign tourists fascinated by the ancient skyscraper buildings that are the mark of Yemeni architecture.

The town of Thula yielded many more fine examples of Yemeni mountain architecture, and then there was Ibb with its well preserved city walls. Ibbah once the capital of the Al Sulaybi state and ruled by the famous Queen Arwa from 1067 to 1138 A.D., and Zabid, founded in the 9th century during the Abbasid rule.

Zabid was a major caravan stop and a centre of Islam, and was famous for its Islamic schools and universities and even today has 86 mosques functioning as Koranic schools. Unlike the Yemeni mountain towns with their spectacular, elaborately decorated multi-storey houses, the buildings of Zabid hide modestly behind white walls, offering only hints of the splendour inside.

A great bonus of the Friends visit to Yemen was the presence of Dr. Thomas Weber, former director of the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology in Amman, as tour leader. Dr. Weber had already led a series of excellent trips to Syria and maintained his usual standard in Yemen, giving an authoritative account of the history and archaeology, providing refer-

ences for those who wanted to read further and even acting as an informal guide to shopping in the souqs of Sana' and Taiz.

Taiz is the second largest city in Yemen, one of its former capitals and home to the beautiful Al Ashrafiya and Al Mudhaffar mosques and a bustling market which gave the Friends more chances to indulge their passion for shopping.

The Yemen trip also benefited from the invaluable contribution of Muna Zaghloul of the Department of Antiquities. Muna, the FOA treasurer and general inspiration, had worked hard at researching and organising the trip and then worked equally hard to ensure its smooth running.

But good leaders and good organisation are the aim of all FOA trips. In January, FOA committee member Ghazi Saadi led a trip to downtown Amman which included a rare chance to see inside the Roman Nymphaeum. He was also able to take the group back to the Amman of his childhood with descriptions of the time when streams ran through the town and it was a popular swimming spot for the young boys.

Then on Friday 14 February Australian archaeologist Stephen Bourke gave the Friends a fascinating tour of Pella in the Jordan Valley. The team from the University of Sydney is now on its fourteenth season of excavation at Pella and Stephen Bourke, having been there for ten of the 14 seasons, knows and loves the site.

The FOA annual meeting will be held at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre at Third Circle at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 17 February. It will include a slide presentation on Jordan by Dr. Gaetano Palumbo and the committee hopes all members, and non-members wishing to know more about the society, will attend. For more information call Ms. Muna Zaghloul on 659978.

Pamela Dougherty is a member of the committee of the Friends of Archaeology.



Zabid: modest white walls hide an Islamic treasure house (photo by Pamela Dougherty)

## Israel's nuclear arsenal and American foreign policy

The Samson Option

By Seymour M. Hersh

Publisher: Faber and Faber, London and Boston 1991

Public knowledge is often limited to events highlighted by newspapers, television news and the radio. Unfortunately, much of the history lies buried in reference books and unpublished articles in libraries and book shelves all over the world. But with the publication of the "Samson Option" very few people will be able to say that the power of the American Zionist lobby or the acquisition by Israel of the nuclear bomb and the events surrounding that acquisition have been hidden from the public.

A book carrying the same appeal as "By Way of Deception" and "The Commanders," the "Samson Option" seriously questions the independence of several American presidents and puts the judgement of many others on trial.

Intimate knowledge of Israeli efforts and capabilities in the arena of nuclear defence and offence has been America's from day one, says Mr. Hersh.

American presidents and officials who claimed to be against nuclear arms proliferation willingly and knowingly closed their eyes to Israel's acquisition and expansion of a

nuclear arsenal.

The book is filled with details for the students of history. Mr. Hersh names many co-laborers and exposes U.S. presidents Truman and Kennedy as hopelessly dependent, for campaign funding on senior American Zionists like Abraham Feinberg, a wealthy New York businessman and fundraiser for Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Explaining his wide span of influence in the White House, Mr. Feinberg said, "My path to power was cooperation in terms of what they needed — campaign money."

"The special relationship" between the United States and Israel is exposed as part "blackmail" and part Zionist fervor, as in the case of presidents Johnson, Nixon and Reagan.

France's role in the acquisitions by Israel of a nuclear capability will make it an accessory, along with the U.S., if and when Israel uses its weapons, which are hidden underground at Dimona, in the Negev Desert, according to Mr. Hersh.

While the Israeli acquisition of a nuclear arsenal will be old news to many, what may be



Seymour Hersh

new to some is that Mr. Hersh, knowingly or not, exposed the American Jewish leaders in a complicity to keep the no war no peace status quo between the Arab World and Israel going.

The 1962 attempt by President Kennedy to partially implement United Nations Resolution 194, which allows Palestine refugees to return to their homes, was torpedoed by the leaders of the American Jewish community, according to Mr. Hersh.

In retrospect, a historic opportunity for peace that was not rejected by any Arab group or government was ruled out by Israel and its supporters on Capitol Hill. Mr. Hersh writes.

David Ben Gurion, portrayed by Mr. Hersh as a fanatic on the issue of Israel's need for nuclear arms, made sure there would be no implementation of the U.N. resolution.

"The expected last-minute Arab rejection did not come... 'Israel panicked,' and provoked a wave of intense political pressure from American Jews upon the White House ... objectives."

### Arabs intensify coordination

(Continued from page 1)

Syria said that the Moscow gathering with some two dozen participants was an attempt to normalise Israel's status in the region while the Jewish state was offering no concessions in the bilateral peace talks.

"We appreciate, respect and understand Syrian stand to the furthest limits," said Dr. Abu Jaber.

"Arab solidarity is there in all positions," Dr. Abu Jaber said, adding that he and Mr. Sharaa "will continue to search for new horizons of cooperation and coordination."

A FLO delegation headed by Foreign Affairs chief Farouq Qaddoumi is due in Damascus on Sunday, FLO officials in Amman said.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Dr. Abu Jaber would raise the possibility of convening a long-sought meeting of Arab states to coordinate policy before the resumption of bilateral negotiations.

Dr. Abu Jaber returned to Amman Saturday evening.

In a statement to Jordan Television Dr. Abu Jaber said he agreed with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa on maintaining consultations between Jordan and Syria over the issue. He also said agreement was reached on continuing contacts at the pan-Arab level to revive joint Arab action at this stage in which the Arab countries are facing serious challenges in view of Israel's extremist policies.

Dr. Abu Jaber described his talks in Damascus as being con-

ducted in a very positive and constructive atmosphere and frankness, understanding and mutual respect.

Mr. Sharaa stressed the importance of wider consultation and coordination between Syria and Jordan that "will lead to achieving Middle East peace objectives."

### AGRIBUSINESS CONSULTANT WANTED

An international project is seeking a consultant to work full-time for three weeks from 24 Feb. to 16 March 92.

Compensation will be at a competitive rate based on qualifications and experience. The desired qualifications are:

1. Graduate degree in Ag. economics, Ag. marketing or related discipline.
2. Minimum 10 years experience in Jordan private sector agribusiness production, marketing or exporting.
3. Demonstrated ability to visualize, describe and analyse problems.
4. Ability to write and speak effectively in English and Arabic.
5. Capability in personal computers.

Interested persons with current resume please call Fakhri at 689192/3 up to Wednesday Feb. 19, 1992

In the end, President Kennedy ... backed down."

The "Samson Option" like many recent books criticising Israel's special status in Washington and the Western press, alludes to "double-talk" and "doublethink" in that press.

Respected newspapers, some for whom Mr. Hersh once worked, consistently watered down Israeli nuclear capabilities over the years while launching attacks against

gave the story no prominence.

Citing the "involvement of the press" the knowledge and involvement of former press tycoon Robert Maxwell in the suppression of information regarding Israel's nuclear arsenal is but one of several revelations made by Mr. Hersh.

Although the Western press played up the Maxwell-Mossad connection, they would have been better advised to expose the frightening power that the Zionist lobby has bought on Capitol Hill and in the White House.

Mr. Hersh called his book "The Samson Option" in reference to the biblical story that Samson took to destroy all those around him when faced with a liquidation assault on his people. The term had been coined by the Israeli leadership under David Ben Gurion. The option was first considered, according to Mr. Hersh, by the government of Golda Meir during the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. The option, of course, was that as a last resort — rather than surrender — Israel would use the bomb, destroying itself and the Arabs with it.

But it is Mr. Hersh's concluding words that are more disturbing than all the other information that he presented to the reader. "The Samson Option," he writes in the last sentence of his book, "is no longer the only nuclear option available to Israel."

By Mariam M. Shabih

### BOOK REVIEW

all other countries doing the same.

Mr. Hersh does not go far enough in some areas and leaves readers to reach their own conclusions. After the October 5, 1986, Sunday Times revelation about the size and extent of the nuclear arsenal that Israel built in its "desert castle — Dimona," Mr. Hersh says no major newspaper or television network picked up the story.

Indeed, according to Mr. Hersh, the main reporter of the story, basing his facts on the testimony of Israeli defector Mordechai Vanunu, was shocked at the "no reaction" of the rest of the press community. Even White House officials who were critical of U.S. policy of "eyes closed" towards Israeli nuclear efforts were appalled that the press

### HOTEL AQUAMARINA III

Three nights/four days per person JD 29,000 in double room occupancy including breakfast and lunch.

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

For reservation please call: 03-31-6255

### HOTEL AQUAMARINA II

Three nights/four days per person JD 29.00 in double room occupancy including breakfast at Aqua II and lunch at Aqua I.

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

For reservation please call 315165 - 316250

### AQUAMARINA HOTEL — CLUB I

Three nights/four days per person JD 48.00 in double room occupancy including breakfast and dinner buffet barbeque in Blue Lagoon Restaurant with MAHA, the Arabic Singer (for families only).

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

For reservation please call: 03-31-6250

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

**THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE**

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

**AMIN KAWAR & SONS**  
Tel: 604676 604696  
P.O. Box 7806 AMMAN

**CROWN INT'L EST.**  
Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service  
Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world  
Tel: 664090  
Fax: 690852  
P.O. Box 826487 Amman

**4 Rent & Sale**  
Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale — furnished or unfurnished.  
Also many lots of land are available for sale.  
For further details, please call

**Abdoun Real Estate**  
Tel: 810605, 810609, Fax: 810520

**STUDIO HAIG**  
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service  
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free Metal Frame 13 x 18 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042  
Sweifich tel: 823891

**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT IN WEST AMMAN**

CALL SOHA AT

**Saudi Real Estate 687821/22**

**RENT Distinctive**  
Villas Apartments Flats IN ROYAL WEST AMMAN

real estate "R" US

Just call NIDAL 693037

**RESTAURANT CHINA**

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabel Amman, near Alhijyah Girls School  
Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.  
7:00 — Midnight  
Tel: 638968

**PEKING RESTAURANT**

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE  
elegant colorful atmosphere  
reservations accepted  
open daily 11:00-11:00 p.m.

**CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

**Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only**  
Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties  
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
6:30 - Midnight

**MANDARIN RESTAURANT**

Special Chinese Foods  
Skilled Chinese Chefs

Open 11:30-3:30 & 6:00-11:30 daily  
Take away is available

Wadi Saqra Road near Philadelphia Hotel  
Tel: 681922, Amman

Great Tasted Always Loved

**CHINA RESTAURANT**

**AGABA CHINESE FOOD**

Open daily 12:00 - 15:00 & 18:30 - 23:30  
Tel: 03 - 314415

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room..!

**DAROTEL**  
داروتيل

Amman - Tel 668193  
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434  
Telex 23888 DAROTEL JO  
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

**MOVING?**  
Let Aramex Air Cargo take care of the work, Door to Door.  
Call the friendly professionals on 660507 or 660508

**ARAMEX AIR CARGO**

Swiss Travel  
LUNCH & DINNER DAILY FROM 6-8 p.m.

Tel: 638212  
Call Mahmoud Saudi







# Iran says Saudis causing problems at OPEC

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia is causing problems at the OPEC talks in Geneva by not agreeing to a cut in its output, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azqadeh said Saturday.

He told Iranian radio there were differences of opinion over quotas and cuts in oil output, and Saudi Arabia was "not ready to cut production."

radio said, according to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

OPEC oil ministers began their fourth day of strategy talks in Geneva Saturday after an attempted compromise to cut production fell apart only a few barrels away from a deal.

Only 100,000 b/d of crude — a small proportion of the 24.4 million b/d the OPEC produces now — stood between ministers and the deal they need to prevent an impending price crash.

The ministers are trying to agree how much production each

country should sacrifice to reduce the overall total and support prices in a market awash with oil.

Iran wanted Saudi Arabia to trim another 100,000 b/d from its output as part of a plan to reduce overall production to 22.5 million b/d, lessening the drastic cuts some other members would have to make.

Saudi Arabia, angered by Iran's position, stepped back from its offer to cut about 750,000 b/d from its output. Instead, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Friday the kingdom would only cut by

500,000 b/d to help OPEC mop up excess oil and prevent a price crash in the northern spring.

Senior OPEC delegates said this meant a bottom line of eight million b/d of Saudi production. "This is non-negotiable," a senior official familiar with Saudi policy said, adding that Sheikh Nazer was acting on orders from Riyadh.

"If they are really serious about this then we are back to the first day," an Iranian delegate said Saturday.

Friday's failure sent prices tumbling. U.S. oil futures lost

more than 40 cents a barrel before closing down 22 cents at \$19.46, from a high of \$19.83 on earlier reports OPEC was close to a deal.

Oil markets were closed Saturday as ministers resumed bilateral talks, visiting each others' hotel suites to work out a compromise.

Saudi Arabia met Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, which with Algeria have acted as the main channels of negotiations between powerhouse Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members.

"We have many proposals, we just have to choose one."

Kuwait's Oil Minister Hamoud Abdullah Al Rqobah said as he entered the Saudi suite.

Saudi Arabia's action has made some members suspect it does not fully back the 22.5 million b/d ceiling. Delegates said the Saudis could be aiming for a ceiling of 22.7 to 22.8 million.

"I am convinced they want to keep the price low, and the way to do that is by keeping production up," a non-Arab delegate said.

Alarmed that the average price for OPEC's basket of seven crudes has been stuck \$4 below

the group's target of \$21 a barrel, many members in desperate need of more petrodollars want a deal that will help shore up prices.

But delegates said members were wary of granting Saudi Arabia a big share of total output in return for agreeing a low ceiling, afraid such a deal would entrench Riyadh's dominance.

Saudi Arabia's pumping process, proven by its ability to boost output 60 per cent after the Gulf crisis drained Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil from the market, has let it grab more than a third of OPEC's production from less

than a quarter before the crisis. That sets the stage for more bruising negotiations when Kuwait and Iraq have resumed full production.

"I think they (the Saudis) are rehearsing for when Iraq comes back," the Iranian delegate said.

Iraq, refusing to accept U.N. terms for a resumption of oil exports, is pumping about 400,000 b/d, far less than its pre-war capacity of just over three million b/d.

## Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	May 13, 1992	May 14, 1992
Sterling Pound	1.7721	1.7710
Deutsche Mark	1.6230	1.6265
Swiss Franc	1.4590	1.4659
French Franc	5.5370	5.5335
Japanese Yen	127.75	127.90
European Currency Unit	1.2713	1.2575

USD Per STG

European Opening in R.O.M. 4.00

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	4.06	4.15	4.50
Sterling Pound	10.50	10.25	10.13	10.00
Deutsche Mark	4.50	9.50	9.43	9.25
Swiss Franc	7.31	7.31	7.25	7.19
French Franc	9.93	9.93	9.93	9.82
Japanese Yen	5.53	5.21	4.96	4.67
European Currency Unit	10.18	10.18	10.18	9.93

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1.2 million J.O.D. or equivalent

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.15	6.75	Silver	4.17	.090

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 15.2.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6800	0.6820
Sterling Pound	1.2034	1.2094
Deutsche Mark	0.4178	0.4199
Swiss Franc	0.4638	0.4661
French Franc	0.1231	0.1237
Japanese Yen	0.5315	0.5342
Dutch Guilder	0.3715	0.3732
Swedish Krona	0.1152	0.1158
Italian Lira	0.0556	0.0559
Belgian Franc	0.02029	0.02039

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7748	1.7850
Lebanese Lira	0.0771	0.0779
Saudi Riyal	0.18109	0.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	0.1843	0.1851
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7408	1.7500
UAE Dirham	0.1843	0.1851
Greek Drachma	0.3580	0.3675
Cypriot Pound	1.4735	1.4970

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	5.2.1992 Close	12.2.1992 Close
All-Share	135.42	137.63
Banking Sector	109.74	110.55
Insurance Sector	131.35	134.25
Industry Sector	173.54	177.93
Service Sector	152.71	154.21

Revised 11, 1992 - 100



Kim Il-Sung

## Kim hikes wages for N. Koreans

BEIJING (R) — North Korea's leader Kim Il-Sung has decreed a steep pay rise next month for the nation's workers, the official news agency said Saturday.

Under his orders North Korean workers, technicians and government employees will get an across-the-board 43.4 per cent pay hike as of March 1, the agency reported in a dispatch from Pyongyang.

"The annual annuity of social security will be up 50.7 per cent and student's stipends up 33 per cent," the news agency said.

It was not clear where the money would come from in a nation desperate for foreign cash following a withdrawal of aid by the economically-strapped former Soviet Union.

The news agency did not say how many North Koreans would benefit, nor did it say why he made such a dramatic display of largesse.

Mr. Kim, who has led North Korea for more than four decades, also decreed that the state would pay farmers 26.2 per cent more on the state purchasing price for rice and a 44.8 per cent hike for corn.

"Purchasing prices will be also raised for some other farm products, so as to increase the income of the farmers," it said.

Retail prices for grain would remain unchanged, it said.

## USAir receives approval to buy Continental assets

ARLINGTON, Virginia (Agencies) — USAir has received approval from the U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Court to purchase Continental Airlines' 62 jet and 46 commuter take-off and landing slots at New York's LaGuardia Airport and six jet take-off and landing slots at Washington D.C.'s National Airport as well as Continental's facilities at LaGuardia for a total cost of \$61 million.

USAir announced its intention to purchase these assets last November pending court approval. USAir was awarded the assets under the terms previously negotiated with Continental.

## EC and EFTA strike deal to set up world's biggest market

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) and the seven-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) struck a final deal Friday clearing the way for the creation of the world's biggest single market.

"We have signed a declaration that formalises the conclusion of negotiations," EFTA Secretary-General Georg Reisch told reporters after day-long St. Valentine's Day negotiations.

"Our delegation is very happy that we have now concluded this last phase of the negotiations. We are very happy with the results," said Horst Krenzler, who led negotiations on behalf of the Community.

The accord will unite 12 EC countries with seven EFTA nations to create a market of 376 million people stretching from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, to be known as the European Economic Area (EEA).

Mr. Krenzler, director general of trade and external relations at the European Commission, added: "This ends... I think the most complex negotiations which we have ever conducted on behalf of the European Community and the European Commission."

The agreement was almost scuttled in December when the European Court of Justice, the EC's highest legal body, said plans to set up a joint EC/EFTA court breached the Community's founding treaty.

Since then the two sides have struggled to find a legal formula to resolve the problem through a compromise that would respect the Court of Justice's prerogatives to rule on EC law but also allow EFTA nations' fears of losing sovereignty.

The last and most difficult problem was to devise a legal system with provisions for resolving disputes over competence for overseeing legislation in the planned single market. Agreement on that was the final piece in the jigsaw, Mr. Krenzler said.

There is one cloud still hanging over the agreement — the Strasbourg-based European Parliament, which has to ratify the accord like the 19 national parliaments, said Friday that it wanted to agreement sent back to the Court of Justice for a further opinion.

"The parliament has the power to delay it month by month by month," a parliament spokesman said.

The Commission and EC governments have already said they will not refer the new accord back to the court for fear of further delaying the accord.

No date has as yet been set for initialing the accord but both sides say they aim to sign the document in early March.

The idea is to implement the agreement on Jan. 1, 1993 — the same date as the European Community's own single market.

## Le Monde reports \$5.2m loss in 1991

PARIS (R) — France's independent daily newspaper Le Monde lost 28 million francs (\$5.2 million) in 1991 because of a slump in advertising revenue, and could only hope to break even this year.

Director Jacques Lesourne said that despite a price increase and cuts in staff and running costs the

highly respected evening newspaper lost 13 million French francs (\$2.4 million) more than forecast. Its loss in 1990 was 39 million francs (\$7.3 million).

"Our aim for 1992 is to break even," Mr. Lesourne wrote in the paper.

He said he would be looking for further ways of saving money without sacrificing quality.

Mr. Lesourne said he would try to avoid a further increase in the cover price — now six francs (\$1.10) — but the newspaper's principles came first.

## Kohl breaks opposition block to pass German tax reform

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government broke an opposition blockade and pushed a tax reform package through Germany's upper house of parliament Friday that will help increase funds for the depressed east of the country.

Opposition Social Democrats (SPD) from eastern Germany broke ranks with their western counterparts to approve a bill that will raise value-added tax (VAT) by one per cent to 15 per cent from 1993, boost child welfare payments and cut corporate taxes.

Brandenburg SPD state premier Manfred Stolpe led the eastern SPD revolt, arguing that money was needed fast to continue rebuilding eastern Germany's struggling economy.

"Brandenburg supports the bill because of the misery in the state, which we want to overcome," Mr. Stolpe told a debate in the upper house, which represents Germany's 16 regional states.

The bill included a compromise provision, offered by Finance Minister Theo Waigel to win SPD support, that raises to 37 per cent from 35 per cent the state governments' share of VAT revenue.

Another compromise allocates all revenue from the one per cent VAT rate rise to a fund dedicated to financing eastern German economic recovery since unification in October 1990.

The bill will add some 33 bil-

lion marks (\$20 billion) between 1992 and 1994 to the coffers of the five east German states while west German states will receive about seven billion marks (\$4.3 billion).

Brandenburg and the city-state of Berlin, where the SPD is also a coalition partner, cast their votes for the bill after last-minute talks Thursday with Mr. Waigel.

In a new pledge made in those talks, Mr. Waigel said Bonn would grant one-time aid of 1.5 billion marks (\$900 million) to poorer states and raise monthly child support payments from 50 marks (\$30) during the current legislative period.

The SPD last year blocked Mr. Kohl's first effort to get the bill through the upper house and western-led SPD state heads had sworn to do the same this time.

Flexing political muscle after state election victories gave them an upper house majority last year, the SPD argued that the tax bill would unfairly burden ordinary people while giving companies tax relief.

The reforms were approved Thursday by the lower house of parliament, controlled by Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Free Democratic Party (FDP) coalition allies.

Bonn's VAT hike conforms with an agreement by European Community finance ministers last year to set a minimum VAT rate of 15 per cent EC-wide from 1993

as part of creating a single European market.

Germany's upper house of parliament Friday also approved a law curbing illegal exports of arms and military technology.

Bu, in a separate resolution, the opposition-dominated Bundestag regretted that the law allowed authorities to tap phones and open mail of suspected firms.

The law was approved by the lower house of Bundestag last month and although it had to be approved by the Bundestag, the opposition Social Democrats could only delay and not block it.

It was the second version of a bill originally introduced last year by Economics Minister Juergen Moellmann, following embarrassing revelations that German firms may have helped Iraq and Libya build up arsenals.

The Bundestag rejected the phone-tapping provisions last year as invasions of privacy and it was resubmitted with such actions, requiring prior legal permission.

Under the new law, firms exporting arms or technical know-how to sensitive areas of the world without government approval face stiffer fines, prison terms and possible confiscation of profits.

There will also be a new export monitoring office working with the German customs service to examine consignments more closely.

## Buyers snap up Robert Maxwell's possessions

LONDON (R) — Late media tycoon Robert Maxwell's silk-draped double bed, auctioned Friday with other possessions from his London apartment, will grace the "scandal suite" of a hotel in the west of England.

Hoteller Shirley Gardner bought the bed for £1,400 pounds (\$2,500) when the entire contents of Maxwell's London home — from wastepaper bins to antique furniture — went on sale at auctioneers Sotheby's.

The auction raised £472,472 (\$838,500) to help repay creditors of Maxwell's empire, which collapsed after his mysterious death at sea.

The sum will not meet even a fraction of the millions missing from Maxwell's global publishing empire.

Souvenir-seekers paid hugely inflated prices for Maxwell's most intimate possessions. His monogrammed bathrobe, slippers and towels, valued by Sotheby's at around £150 (\$265) fetched £1,100 (\$1,950).

Amid heated bidding, a limited edition print of Maxwell's yacht Lady Gilmour, valued at around £30 (\$53.25), sold for £900 (\$1,600).

Mr. Gardner, who spent more than £10,000 (\$17,800) on Maxwell Memorabilia to furnish her hotel in Dorset, was delighted with her bargains.

Her hotel's "scandal suite" will give guests a feel of what life was like for Robert Maxwell, she said.

"People can do whatever they want in it and at least they know they are not doing anything worse than the chap who had the bed did," said Ms. Gardner, 39.

The hundreds of bargain-hunters and voyeurs who turned up for the sale got a glimpse of Maxwell's opulent lifestyle among ornate mahogany and

rosewood furniture, French and Scandinavian oil paintings and hand-made carpets.

The burly tycoon left behind several cases of champagne and fine wine and a range of kitchen appliances, including machines to make cappuccino coffee, ice cream and toasted sandwiches.

Maxwell, whose weight had ballooned to more than 127 kilograms at the time of his death, left behind a fitness workout bench and two sets of bathroom scales.

Even personal items, like Maxwell's cherished baseball caps, one inscribed with the word "Guvnor," and photographs of him posing with U.S. politician Jesse Jackson and with Nelson and Winnie Mandela, went under the hammer.

The Sun newspaper paid £1,100 (\$1,950) for Maxwell's collection of hats, and the photographs raised £400 (\$710).

Maxwell, who guarded his private life and business deals with a barrage of lawyers' writs, kept two paper shredders and a fax machine in the apartment, on the 10th floor above his company's headquarters.

They were snapped up at the auction too.

**Cinema** Tel: 677420

**CONCORD**

Kim Basinger

**TOO HOT TO HANDLE**

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Tel: 675571

**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre**

Every day starting from Thursday Feb. 13. You meet the stars of Haret Abu Awwad Family in their play:

**Zaman Al Shaklabah (Somersault Time)**

at 8 p.m.

Tickets office open daily

**Cinema** Tel: 634144

**PHILADELPHIA**

Eddie Murphy & Nick Nolte

**IN**

**ANOTHER 48 HOURS**

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Special shows for children on Thursdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

**The Fox And The Hound**

**Cinema** Tel: 625155

**RAINBOW**

Noor Al Sharif

**IN**

**Naji Al Ali**

Arabic

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

**Appointment of an Executive Secretary**

A Private Share Development Co. wishes to employ an Executive Secretary (male or female) with a minimum experience of (10) years, to work with the Board of Directors and the General Manager, full time. Applicants must have experience in general administration and accounting, in addition to word processing, Arabic and English fluently. Work conditions and salary will be related to the applicants qualifications and experience.

Applications are to be submitted to the "Personnel Officer", P.O.Box 5278 — Amman and will be dealt with in strict confidence.

An appointment for a personal interview will then be arranged.

**Furnished Apartment or Villa Wanted**

Family seeking modern 3-bedroom place with furniture, appliances, telephone, grided windows, garage. Located between 5th-8th Circles.

Please call tel. 689192 between 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**THE PEC OF INDIA LTD.**  
(A Govt. of India Parastatal)

Invites you to an exclusive **BUYER-SELLER MEET**  
(16th to 25th Feb. 1992)

**PRODUCT RANGE:**

- \* Leather Garments
- \* Textiles
- \* Medical
- \* Disposable
- \* Scientific & Education Equip.
- \* Army Uniforms
- \* Blankets & Tents
- \* Jerry Cans
- \* Valves
- \* Vick Stoves
- \* Lanterns
- \* Thermoware
- \* Readymade Garments
- \* Household Appliances
- \* Shoe Uppers
- \* Foodstuff like Rice, Spices, Tea, Coffee
- \* Soya Bean Meal
- \* Engg. Goods
- \* Bulk Drugs
- \* Cast Iron Manhole Covers
- \* Wood for Furniture/Construction
- \* Electric Iron

**Venue: Hotel Philadelphia Int.**  
Contact: Mr. B.S. Sabrani



## 130 Japan MPs said to have taken payoffs

TOKYO (R) — More than 100 Japanese legislators accepted payoffs from the head of a big transport firm, some taking billions of yen (millions of dollars) each, according to allegations in two leading Tokyo dailies.

In interviews with Asahi Shimbun and Mainichi Shimbun, Yasuo Matsuzawa, one of four men arrested Friday in a huge bribery scam, said about 130 Diet (parliament) members were involved.

Total payoffs may have reached 80 billion yen (\$640 million), he was quoted as saying.

In parliament Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's ruling party failed to break a deadlock over the budget bill debate which has been stalled for 11 days.

Opposition parties vowed to boycott proceedings involving former Prime Minister Suzuki, Mr. Miyazawa's political mentor, testified on another political funding scandal.

Many commentators believe the latest allegations involving the trucking firm Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin could develop into Japan's largest post-war political scandal.

Socialist Party Secretary-General Sadao Yamahana has no doubts. "This case will surpass both the recruit and Lockheed scandals in depth and in breadth," he said Friday.

In the 1970s, Prime Minister Tanaka was implicated in allegations of kickback payments from the U.S. aircraft manufacturer Lockheed.

In the late 1980s, several top party politicians including Minister Noboru Takeshita and Mr. Miyazawa, who was then finance minister, had to resign over links to the recruit "share-for-favors" scandal.

Friday's arrests marked a breakthrough for state prosecutors after more than a year of undercover investigations into Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, an affiliate of Japan's second trucking and parcel delivery company.

A senior prosecutor said they stemmed from charges of commercial breach of trust brought against former company President Hiroyasu Watanabe and an associate over huge sums extended to smaller firms in the form of improper direct and indirect loans as well as loan guarantees.

Tokyo police were investigating similar loans which Mr. Watanabe extended to firms linked to the Inagawa-Kai, Japan's second largest crime syndicate.

In return for these dubious loans, press reports said Mr. Watanabe and his colleague received kickbacks which were used to create a secret slush fund for politicians of both the ruling and opposition parties.

In an interview with Asahi Shimbun given some time before his arrest, Mr. Matsuzawa was quoted as saying: "About 130 politicians came to get money from former President Watanabe."

Asahi quoted him as saying, "I am not sure how many received several billion yen each."

The amount which ex-President Watanabe handed (politicians) was between 50 million yen and 100 million yen (\$400,000 and \$800,000) at least each time," Mr. Matsuzawa said.

Mainichi Shimbun quoted Mr. Matsuzawa as saying prosecutors might know the names of about 130 politicians not only from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) but also from the opposition Socialists, the Komeito (Clean Government Party) and the Democratic Socialist Party.

"Should the Tokyo prosecutors' office summon and arrest them, Japan will be finished," Mainichi quoted him as saying.

Mr. Matsuzawa said that, based on what he had heard from Tokyo Sagawa officials, the company had paid politicians a total of between 70 and 80 billion yen (\$560 and 640 million).

"I heard that five politicians each received more than five billion yen (\$40 million). At least five people connected with political circles visited Tokyo Sagawa everyday," he told Mainichi.

Mr. Matsuzawa was quoted as telling Asahi: "Watanabe had a cabinet minister appointed by a single telephone call in front of me. (He) asked an LDP boss."

He said Mr. Watanabe hosted regular restaurant meetings of about 20 LDP legislators and gave each of them a cash gift.

The daily Yomiuri Shimbun quoted Mr. Watanabe's arrested former colleague, Jun Saitome, as saying in an interview: "Although Tokyo Sagawa is said to have backed as many as 200 national legislators, the number was not that high."

## Commonwealth leaders split on national armies

MINSK, Belarus (R) — Commonwealth leaders have failed to resolve differences over creating national armies from the former Soviet Union's vast conventional forces.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told a news conference Friday that the leaders would stick by an earlier agreement on joint command of nuclear forces.

But two rival camps emerged on the issue of non-nuclear forces.

Leaders of the 11 former Soviet republics held talks in the Belarusian capital Minsk Friday that were dominated by military issues. Several agreements were reached but many key issues were put off until the next summit on March 20 in Kiev.

"Two groups of Commonwealth members were created — one group agreed to unified control of the armed forces and one group agreed to create its own armed forces," Mr. Kravchuk said.

Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan supported national armies. The other eight states agreed to unified forces but Belarus, which proposed a two-year transition period, and Uzbekistan expressed reservations.

Russia and Ukraine, the two most powerful Commonwealth states, at odds for weeks over control of the Black Sea Fleet, again appeared at opposite ends of the spectrum.

But Kravchuk denied that the differences over conventional armed forces threatened the future of the Commonwealth, created in December on the ruins of the Soviet Union.

He told reporters after the news conference: "The fact that half of the member states want their own armies is of no significance to the Commonwealth ... The Commonwealth is concerned mainly with economic questions."

Mr. Kravchuk said 20 documents were signed at the Minsk meeting, including accords on strategic arms, social protection for troops and ensuring material supplies for servicemen.

He also said some important economic agreements were reached, including coordination of electricity and railways, and ways of regulating trade and economic cooperation. But he gave no details of any of the documents.

"The main thing is to restore economic links between enterprises," he said. "There are and will be disagreements because the Commonwealth is a new body which is trying to define the rules governing mutual relations."

Putting aside their obvious differences, Russia and Ukraine signed a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations. Two other Commonwealth members, Armenia and Azerbaijan, appeared as far apart as ever as fresh fighting was reported around the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijan's President Ayaz Mutalibov left the Minsk meeting for home urgently because of a large-scale Armenian offensive in the enclave, an Azeri spokesman said. Armenian leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan said he had no information on this.

Mr. Kravchuk said he still believed in the future of the Commonwealth. "If people understand that this is a critical hour, and they must stop arguing and do what is necessary for people, then the documents which we have adopted will work."

Commonwealth Commander-in-Chief Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, confirmed in his post at Friday's meeting, also assessed the results of the Minsk meeting positively, saying:

"In such a collective not everything can be done so quickly, but the steps we have taken today were very important. I am satisfied."

Friday. "Having been born in the generation of the cold war, this is kind of fun," said cartographer Richard Rogers, reaching up from a ladder to change the National Geographic Society's giant world globe.

The globe displays the world to thousands of American school children, tourists and other visitors annually.

The Soviet Union will not be replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States, the general term for the collection of new nations replacing the former Communist union. It will show only the independent states being born from the breakup of the Soviet Union, explained society spokeswoman Barbara Hand Fallon.

In addition to the breakup of the Soviet Union Mr. Rogers was also dividing Yugoslavia into three parts: Slovenia, Croatia and a rump Yugoslavia.

The globe — 11 feet (3.3 metres) in diameter — was completed in late 1988, replacing an earlier version that needed almost no changes in years on the job.

Now society officials are updating both the globe and its big world atlas, updated just 18 months ago.

When the new atlas came out at the end of 1990 officials were proud that they managed to include the merger of east Germany and west Germany. They hoped that few further changes would be necessary.

Now more than 70 maps in the volume have to be updated just to remove the name Soviet Union.

When the new atlas came out at the end of 1990 officials were proud that they managed to include the merger of east Germany and west Germany. They hoped that few further changes would be necessary.

Now more than 70 maps in the volume have to be updated just to remove the name Soviet Union.

Mr. Kravchuk, who earlier reiterated his regrets at approving Marshal Shaposhnikov's appointment in December, said the commander or his deputies had been responsible for most of the misunderstandings that have arisen in military policy.

The Ukrainian leader met Russian President Boris Yeltsin after Friday's summit but the outcome of the talks was not known. "The results will be good," Mr. Kravchuk said.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Kravchuk as saying: "Perhaps a document on economic relations between Russia and Ukraine will be signed."

He said Commonwealth leaders had adopted a special protocol instructing foreign ministers to prepare a draft agreement for signing at next month's summit on implementing treaties on reducing strategic and conventional forces.

TASS said parliaments had been recommended not to ratify the treaties before then.

Belarusian leader Stanislav Shushkevich was quoted as saying his country was striving to become nuclear-free and neutral and he regarded the presence of Unified Forces as temporary.

Russian television reported that two Azeri-populated villages in Nagorno-Karabakh had been burned down and that some 300 their residents were picketing President Mutalibov's office in Azerbaijan's capital Baku.

"They demanded that steps be taken to liberate the villages," the television report said.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the past four years in fighting between Armenians and Azeris over the mountainous enclave in the Caucasus.

In a separate development, more than 400,000 soldiers stationed in Ukraine have pledged their allegiance to the republic, Polish newspaper reported Friday.

Peru rebels blast police van, kill 4

LIMA (R) — Maoist guerrillas blew up a Peruvian police van Friday, killing four policemen and wounding five during a one-day strike, police sources said.

Three policemen died when Shining Path guerrillas detonated a 40 kilogramme bomb made of anpho, an explosive used in mining, as their van patrolled the poor district of Comas, about 20 kilometres north east of Lima, the sources said.

Another policeman died in hospital of severe wounds, the sources added.

Shining Path has called the "armed strike" to protest against the government's drastic anti-inflation policies.

At least 16 people, including 10 policemen, have been killed in an upsurge of urban violence before the stoppage, police said.

Prime Minister Alfonso de los Heros told reporters, "Peruvians have shown that this is the time to work."

A police spokesman told Reuters that police intelligence believes that Shining Path used 500 armed guerrillas, bolstered by rebels from the jungle, to carry out the selective killings and bombings this week.

Democrats asked to reconsider White House race

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats are asking party heavyweights to reconsider entering the U.S. presidential campaign because one-time favourite Bill Clinton has been hit by rows about extra-marital affairs and the Vietnam War draft.

But those who ducked out of the race for who will challenge Republican President George Bush so far look unlikely to change their minds, although late announcements could be made soon after next week's New Hampshire primary.

Those being urged to run include Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen, New York Governor Mario Cuomo and House majority leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri.

In a brief interview, Sen. Bentsen, the party's vice presidential nominee in 1988, said he was getting calls from all over the country. But he is not including to change his mind and run.

A spokesman for Mr. Cuomo said the governor has received letters, some with donations, "all of which are returned with a letter from the governor thanking the individuals but stating he is not a candidate."

An aide to Mr. Gephardt said although "a lot of gracious and well-meaning people on and off Capitol Hill are encouraging him to revise the decision he made ... he is not a candidate."

Sen. Bentsen, Mr. Gephardt and Mr. Cuomo are being con-

tacted because many Democrats are dissatisfied with the party's field of five major candidates running in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary.

Mr. Clinton, the Arkansas governor and once the favorite, has been damaged by questions about his personal life.

On Wednesday, he released a 1969 letter showing he wanted to avoid fighting in Vietnam. But he denies being a draft-dodger. Mr. Clinton has also rejected renewed allegations about adultery.

Latest polls put Mr. Clinton well behind former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas in the important test Tuesday.

But Mr. Tsongas is seen as a regional candidate with little support in vital southern states. Former California Governor Kerrey are generally dismissed as unelectable or inexperienced.

Entry into the race may well be timed for shortly after the New Hampshire primary. That is what happened in 1968. When the late Senator Robert Kennedy of New York entered the race.

He was emboldened by the anti-Vietnam War fervor that brought former Senator Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota 42 per cent of the Democratic vote and within 254 votes of beating the president then, Lyndon Johnson.

No one expects Mr. Bush's Republican challenger, conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, to do nearly so well. But the

U.S. government Friday strongly defended before the Supreme Court its right to repatriate Haitian boat people by force.

Solicitor General Kenneth Starr asked the justices to reject an appeal by human rights lawyers for the Haitians. He made his argument shortly after a senior U.S. House member joined human rights groups in demanding that the refugees be given protection in the United States.

About 15,000 Haitians have tried to enter the United States since a Sept. 30 military coup ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Most were picked up at sea and taken to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and are now being sent back to Haiti.

"We respectfully submit that it is time for this court to determine that 'enough is enough,'" Mr. Starr said in the 44-page legal document filed with the nine justices.

"Further judicial interference will only make matters worse," he said in asking that the Supreme Court allow the controversial repatriations to continue.

Earlier, representative John Conyers told a news conference that President George Bush should let the refugees stay in the United States until Democracy was restored in Haiti.

The Michigan Democrat also announced that a key committee be chaired would investigate the U.S. government's treatment of the Haitians.

Mr. Conyers was joined by representatives of Amnesty International USA and American Watch, which said human rights violations were continuing.

At the Supreme Court, Mr. Starr responded to a Friday afternoon deadline in explaining the administration's legal position in the nearly three-month-old court battle. A ruling in the case could come at any time.

Meanwhile in Haiti, police swooped on a hotel where political backers of the ousted president were meeting Friday in an apparent attempt to intimidate them, political sources said.

Soldiers also arrested a priest who is an outspoken supporter of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Catholic church-run negotiations.

Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said Croatian forces launched an artillery and mortar attack late Friday on Yugoslav army positions at a military airport near the Adriatic port of Zadar.

Croatian radio reported shelling around the mediaeval Adriatic resort of Dubrovnik and shelling on a nearby island.

Hardline Serbs in Croatia still oppose the plan and Croatian government officials have expressed reservations even though President Franjo Tudjman had given his unconditional backing.

Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Saporovic said Friday Zagreb accepted the plan as only alternative to war but the U.N. operation would delay and not prevent Croatia regaining territory seized by Serbs.

Milan Babic, leader of Krajina, the main Serbian enclave in Croatia, warned the U.N. the arrival of U.N. troops without his approval could spark fresh fighting in the area.

He announced a referendum last week on the U.N. plan in Krajina for Feb. 22 and 23.



A Haitian refugee talks to people outside a razor wire barrier at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Military Base in Cuba.

## U.S. government asks Supreme Court to allow Haitian repatriations

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government Friday strongly defended before the Supreme Court its right to repatriate Haitian boat people by force.

Solicitor General Kenneth Starr asked the justices to reject an appeal by human rights lawyers for the Haitians. He made his argument shortly after a senior U.S. House member joined human rights groups in demanding that the refugees be given protection in the United States.

About 15,000 Haitians have tried to enter the United States since a Sept. 30 military coup ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Most were picked up at sea and taken to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and are now being sent back to Haiti.

"We respectfully submit that it is time for this court to determine that 'enough is enough,'" Mr. Starr said in the 44-page legal document filed with the nine justices.

"Further judicial interference will only make matters worse," he said in asking that the Supreme Court allow the controversial repatriations to continue.

Earlier, representative John Conyers told a news conference that President George Bush should let the refugees stay in the United States until Democracy was restored in Haiti.

The Michigan Democrat also announced that a key committee be chaired would investigate the U.S. government's treatment of the Haitians.

Mr. Conyers was joined by representatives of Amnesty International USA and American Watch, which said human rights violations were continuing.

At the Supreme Court, Mr. Starr responded to a Friday afternoon deadline in explaining the administration's legal position in the nearly three-month-old court battle. A ruling in the case could come at any time.

Meanwhile in Haiti, police swooped on a hotel where political backers of the ousted president were meeting Friday in an apparent attempt to intimidate them, political sources said.

Soldiers also arrested a priest who is an outspoken supporter of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Catholic church-run negotiations.

Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said Croatian forces launched an artillery and mortar attack late Friday on Yugoslav army positions at a military airport near the Adriatic port of Zadar.

Croatian radio reported shelling around the mediaeval Adriatic resort of Dubrovnik and shelling on a nearby island.

Hardline Serbs in Croatia still oppose the plan and Croatian government officials have expressed reservations even though President Franjo Tudjman had given his unconditional backing.

Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Saporovic said Friday Zagreb accepted the plan as only alternative to war but the U.N. operation would delay and not prevent Croatia regaining territory seized by Serbs.

Milan Babic, leader of Krajina, the main Serbian enclave in Croatia, warned the U.N. the arrival of U.N. troops without his approval could spark fresh fighting in the area.

He announced a referendum last week on the U.N. plan in Krajina for Feb. 22 and 23.

Democrats asked to reconsider White House race

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats are asking party heavyweights to reconsider entering the U.S. presidential campaign because one-time favourite Bill Clinton has been hit by rows about extra-marital affairs and the Vietnam War draft.

But those who ducked out of the race for who will challenge Republican President George Bush so far look unlikely to change their minds, although late announcements could be made soon after next week's New Hampshire primary.

Those being urged to run include Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen, New York Governor Mario Cuomo and House majority leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri.

U.S. government Friday strongly defended before the Supreme Court its right to repatriate Haitian boat people by force.

Solicitor General Kenneth Starr asked the justices to reject an appeal by human rights lawyers for the Haitians. He made his argument shortly after a senior U.S. House member joined human rights groups in demanding that the refugees be given protection in the United States.

About 15,000 Haitians have tried to enter the United States since a Sept. 30 military coup ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Most were picked up at sea and taken to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and are now being sent back to Haiti.

"We respectfully submit that it is time for this court to determine that 'enough is enough,'" Mr. Starr said in the 44-page legal document filed with the nine justices.

"Further judicial interference will only make matters worse," he said in asking that the Supreme Court allow the controversial repatriations to continue.

Earlier, representative John Conyers told a news conference that President George Bush should let the refugees stay in the United States until Democracy was restored in Haiti.

The Michigan Democrat also announced that a key committee be chaired would investigate the U.S. government's treatment of the Haitians.

Mr. Conyers was joined by representatives of Amnesty International USA and American Watch, which said human rights violations were continuing.

At the Supreme Court, Mr. Starr responded to a Friday afternoon deadline in explaining the administration's legal position in the nearly three-month-old court battle. A ruling in the case could come at any time.

Meanwhile in Haiti, police swooped on a hotel where political backers of the ousted president were meeting Friday in an apparent attempt to intimidate them, political sources said.

Soldiers also arrested a priest who is an outspoken supporter of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Catholic church-run negotiations.

Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said Croatian forces launched an artillery and mortar attack late Friday on Yugoslav army positions at a military airport near the Adriatic port of Zadar.

Croatian radio reported shelling around the mediaeval Adriatic resort of Dubrovnik and shelling on a nearby island.

Hardline Serbs in Croatia still oppose the plan and Croatian government officials have expressed reservations even though President Franjo Tudjman had given his unconditional backing.

Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Saporovic said Friday Zagreb accepted the plan as only alternative to war but the U.N. operation would delay and not prevent Croatia regaining territory seized by Serbs.

Milan Babic, leader of Krajina, the main Serbian enclave in Croatia, warned the U.N. the arrival of U.N. troops without his approval could spark fresh fighting in the area.

He announced a referendum last week on the U.N. plan in Krajina for Feb. 22 and 23.

Democrats asked to reconsider White House race

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats are asking party heavyweights to reconsider entering the U.S. presidential campaign because one-time favourite Bill Clinton has been hit by rows about extra-marital affairs and the Vietnam War draft.

But those who ducked out of the race for who will challenge Republican President George Bush so far look unlikely to change their minds, although late announcements could be made soon after next week's New Hampshire primary.

Those being urged to run include Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen, New York Governor Mario Cuomo and House majority leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri.

U.S. government Friday strongly defended before the Supreme Court its right to repatriate Haitian boat people by force.

Solicitor General Kenneth Starr asked the justices to reject an appeal by human rights lawyers for the Haitians. He made his argument shortly after a senior U.S. House member joined human rights groups in demanding that the refugees be given protection in the United States.

About 15,000 Haitians have tried to enter the United States since a Sept. 30 military coup ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Most were picked up at sea and taken to the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and are now being sent back to Haiti.

"We respectfully submit that it is time for this court to determine that 'enough is enough,'" Mr. Starr said in the 44-page legal document filed with the nine justices.

"Further judicial interference will only make matters worse," he said in asking that the Supreme Court allow the controversial repatriations to continue.

Earlier, representative John Conyers told a news conference that President George Bush should let the refugees stay in the United States until Democracy was restored in Haiti.

The Michigan Democrat also announced that a key committee be chaired would investigate the U.S. government's treatment of the Haitians.

Mr. Conyers was joined by representatives of Amnesty International USA and American Watch, which said human rights violations were continuing.

At the Supreme Court, Mr. Starr responded to a Friday afternoon deadline in explaining the administration's legal position in the nearly three-month-old court battle. A ruling in the case could come at any time.

Meanwhile in Haiti, police swooped on a hotel where political backers of the ousted president were meeting Friday in an apparent attempt to intimidate them, political sources said.

Soldiers also arrested a priest who is an outspoken supporter of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Catholic church-run negotiations.

Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said Croatian forces launched an artillery and mortar attack late Friday on Yugoslav army positions at a military airport near the Adriatic port of Zadar.

Croatian radio reported shelling around the mediaeval Adriatic resort of Dubrovnik and shelling on a nearby island.

Hardline Serbs in Croatia still oppose the plan and Croatian government officials have expressed reservations even though President Franjo Tudjman had given his unconditional backing.

Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Saporovic said Friday Zagreb accepted the plan as only alternative to war but the U.N. operation would delay and not prevent Croatia regaining territory seized by Serbs.

Milan Babic, leader of Krajina, the main Serbian enclave in Croatia, warned the U.N. the arrival of U.N. troops without his approval could spark fresh fighting in the area.

He announced a referendum last week on the U.N. plan in Krajina for Feb. 22 and 23.

Democrats asked to reconsider White House race

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats are asking party heavyweights to reconsider entering the U.S. presidential campaign because one-time favourite Bill Clinton has been hit by rows about extra-marital affairs and the Vietnam War draft.

But those who ducked out of the race for who will challenge Republican President George Bush so far look unlikely to change their minds, although late announcements could be made soon after next week's New Hampshire primary.

Those being urged to run include Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen, New York Governor Mario Cuomo and House majority leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri.

## COLUMN

### Bush gets taxing valentine poem

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (R) — U.S. President George Bush received a not-so-sweet Valentine's Day poem Friday from a New Hampshire newspaper that endorsed his Republican opponent in Tuesday's presidential primary. The Union leader, which is backing conservative Patrick Buchanan for the Republican nomination, took aim at Mr. Bush's 1988 campaign pledge, "read my lips, no new taxes."

The Manchester newspaper wrote: "George Bush's lips were read. And his promises were untrue. He chose to raise our taxes. And leave us feeling blue. So let's give to him a message. That we voters don't approve Of his presidential dealings. And we want to help him move."

Rape victim's photo and name on magazine cover

NEW YORK (AP) — The beauty queen who has raped by boxer Mike Tyson gave a mass-circulation magazine permission to run her picture and name, the magazine said. A smiling photograph of Desiree Washington, who competed in the Miss Black America Pageant as Miss Rhode Island, appears on People magazine's Feb. 24 cover along with a larger picture of Tyson. The magazine quotes her as saying: "I didn't do it for fame. It was the right thing to do." Tyson, the former heavyweight champion, was convicted Monday of raping Washington, an 18-year-old Freshman at Providence College, in an Indianapolis hotel room last July. In Indianapolis, Judge Patricia Gifford